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Iraq

AL-THAWRAH, cited by INA, "strongly condemned" the UN Security Council's recent decision to maintain the economic blockade on the "pretext that Iraq has thus far failed to comply" with international resolutions although "all facts" and visiting UN inspection teams "are saying otherwise." The Security Council "must make an effort to show itself as a credible and effective institution which is ready to treat Iraq fairly and to remove the injustice and wrong done" by the blockade, the agency continued. Meanwhile, the agriculture and irrigation minister accused the United States "and its agents" of "intentionally working to sabotage" his nation's agricultural production by blocking the import of necessary goods, INA reported. He added that Washington and its "agents" have carried out "large-scale operations" to smuggle out Iraq's "animal wealth" to Saudi Arabia, the agency continued.

Libya

The Arab League Secretariat issued a statement explaining that Tripoli's proposals which the Arab League chief sent to UN Secretary General Ghali "confirm that the Libyan authorities do not object" to the two Lockerbie suspects' being placed at Ghali's disposal, MENA reported. The statement also said that Libya is "willing to find a practical mechanism" to implement Resolution 731 and that the Jamahiriyyah "will accept the verdict" of the International Court of Justice and will implement its ruling, the agency continued.

Israel

Shamir, in a news conference carried by Tel Aviv radio, said of Levi's resignation, "I thought it was a joke" and that "he should not go through with this." In an interview with Jerusalem radio, Levi stated, "I will not comment on jokes." Elsewhere, senior military sources said that Israel must be prepared for a possible Syrian "limited military operation" on the Golan Heights in pursuit of political goals, Tel Aviv radio reported. Shamir expressed his "full confidence" in Israel's ambassador to Washington, praising his "full and detailed reports;" a Knesset member had criticized Zalman Shoval's "unreliable" reporting, Jerusalem radio stated.

Lebanon

In an interview with Argentine television cited by Voice of Lebanon radio, the Hizballah secretary general denied that his organization "had anything to do" with the bombing of Israel's embassy in Buenos Aires, said that Hizballah has "no relationship" with Islamic Jihad, and added that "if we had carried out the attack we would not hesitate to admit it."

India

The foreign minister resigned over the Bofors arms sales affair, and the opposition accused the government of trying to "suppress the facts on the issue," Delhi radio observed.

Algeria

Paris international radio noted the "recent" dismissal of the head of the Army and commander of ground forces, who was "considered to be among the military chiefs most hostile to Islamic fundamentalists."

Inter-Arab Affairs

The Algerian Post and Telecommunications Administration denied that it had any direct telephone connections with Israel, adding that it had "no intention of changing" its policy on this matter, Algiers radio reported. A Kuwaiti Communications Ministry official declared that no efforts are under way to establish telephone links with Israel, KUNA stated. Riyadh television added that a Saudi Posts, Telephone, and Telegraph Ministry source denied that the Kingdom had established telephone connections with Israel, saying Saudi Arabia "will not permit this." An official source at the Jordanian Communications Corporation said that although an "Israeli firm" attempted to establish direct-dial services "with certain Arab states, including Jordan," "we managed to stop the offense," Amman radio reported.

Inter-Arab Affairs

League Says Libyans 'Do Not Object' To Handover

NC3003141992 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1329 GMT
30 Mar 92

[Text] Cairo, 30 Mar (MENA)—The Arab League Secretariat has issued a press statement explaining that the Libyan proposals that Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Isamat 'Abd-al-Majid sent to UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Ghali confirm that the Libyan authorities do not object to the two Libyan suspects being placed at the disposal of the Arab League secretary general.

The message containing the proposals also says that Libya is willing to find a practical mechanism to implement UN Security Council Resolution 731 within the framework of international law, international legitimacy, and the Libyan Jamahiriyyah's national sovereignty.

The message also says that Libya will accept the verdict of the International Court of Justice in its capacity as the international judicial body and will implement its rulings.

The Arab League Secretariat's statement says that the Arab League believes that Libya's stance, as expressed in the proposal message, reaffirms Libya's sincere wish to show goodwill in containing the crisis and finding a suitable solution in accordance with the principles of international law and Chapter 6 of the UN Charter.

The League Secretariat adds that the message in question is intended to convey the Arab countries' desire that the UN Secretary General, in accordance with the powers given to him by the UN Charter, use his good offices to resolve the crisis peacefully.

The seven-member committee, formed by the Arab foreign ministers emergency meeting, discussed the Libyan proposals for the past two days, following which Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid sent an urgent message to Dr. Ghali informing him of the Libyan proposals and the committee's stance.

Libyans May 'Give Themselves Up'

NC3103113792 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1050 GMT
31 Mar 92

[Text] Cairo, 31 Mar (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has affirmed that Egypt is trying to contain the Libyan crisis with the West.

Speaking after a meeting with President Mubarak today, Musa said that he and the president discussed the latest developments in Libya's crisis with the West in light of the Libyan proposal that the Arab League sent to the United Nations on containing the crisis.

The foreign minister said that Egypt is still awaiting a response, adding that one of the Libyan proposals is to let the two Libyan defendants give themselves up.

Musa was asked whether the postponement, at President Mubarak's request, of the UN Security Council's vote on the resolution to impose an economic boycott on Libya would be for 24 hours or longer. He replied that this is the last effort in the intervention process [hadhihi akhir muhawalah fi silsilat al-taddakhulqat]. We are now talking about the existing proposals, he said.

Asked whether he or President Mubarak plan to visit Libya, Musa said there are no plans for that now and added: Anyway, Libya is our country, and we will visit it if there is a need.

Arab League Statement Condemns Israeli Policies

NC2903131092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1059 GMT
29 Mar 92

[Excerpts] Cairo, 29 Mar (MENA)—The Arab League Secretariat has called on the international community to safeguard human rights in the occupied territories, stop Israeli oppression, and protect Palestinians.

It warned of the dangerous and deteriorating economic and social circumstances Palestinians are suffering from as a result of the Israeli occupation, which exploits the fact that international public opinion, the press, and international media are preoccupied with other affairs.

In a statement it issued on the occasion of Land Day, which falls on 30 March, the Arab League Secretariat hailed the Palestinian people, who for five years have been making the noblest sacrifices through their lofty intifadah, defying the Israeli occupation authorities' oppressive practices, measures, and attempts to occupy and Judaize the Palestinian territories in any underhanded way and at any cost. [passage omitted]

The statement affirmed that Israeli expansionist policies entrench racism and encourage hostilities and hatred. They do not bolster the efforts of the international community to establish just and permanent peace in the Middle East.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Land Day Message to Palestinians

LD3003190292 Algiers Voice of Palestine
in Arabic 1602 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Message by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to the Palestinian people on the occasion of the commemoration of the 16th anniversary of Land Day—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. We wished to be gracious to those who were being repressed in the land, to make them leaders in faith and make them heirs, and to establish a firm place for them in the land. [Koranic verse] Verily God has spoken the truth.

Sons of our struggling Palestinian people; beloved brothers in Galilee, the Triangle, and the Negev: Today

we commemorate the 16th anniversary of the immortal Land Day. This day was immortalized by the blood of the martyrs at Sakhnin, 'Arrabat al-Batuf, Taybah, and Kafr Kannah. It was also immortalized by the wounds and the struggle of our masses at Nazareth, Umm al-Fahm, Shafa 'Amr, Tirah, Tamrah, Dayr al-Asad, al-Makr, Kafr Yasin, and every town and village in the Galilee, the Triangle, and the Negev over a period of 44 years in defense of the land and in continuous confrontations against the Israeli criminal policies and racist practices, and in particular against the crimes of looting, confiscation, and the closure of our lands and sanctities.

With true pleasure I have received the news of your decision through your elected local leaderships to proclaim this glorious day, which is one of your days of struggle, a national holiday. Thus we congratulate ourselves and all sons of our people. Congratulations to you, our beloved brothers.

Blessed is your rightful and just struggle in defense of your rights and your land. It is a precious trust that is worthy of your struggle to defend your rights and your land. It is a dear trust worthy of the struggle, however dear the sacrifices may be. It is a trust placed in you by your fathers and forefathers and by your sons, and it shall be inherited from you by your sons and grandsons until doomsday. You are the salt of the land, the land of the fathers, forefathers, and grandsons.

Land Day comes this year at a time when we are observing two fasts: the fast of the blessed month of Ramadan and only a few days before the 'Id al-Fitr feast and the great fast that extends for several weeks before Easter. To all sons of our people we say: With all love and appreciation we will remain together, side by side, until victory and until the rising of the inevitable dawn.

The anniversary of Land Day comes this year while we are waging one of the most difficult and harshest battles, in confrontation with this racist, occupying enemy armed with all types of weapons and all forms of support, a tough and serious political battle, no less serious than all our other battles, a battle whose theaters are the capitals from Madrid to Washington to Moscow, etc., theaters crowded with contradictions and mines and rich with ambushes. Your knights are victorious in them, with God's support, and deserve all your trust, all your love and all your support.

They reveal what is right and demand justice, and with this distinguished and wonderful performance, this unshakable faith, with this determination which cannot bend and this competence which hardly has a parallel, and to which the enemies before friends and relations have borne witness, all this despite the cunning and malice of the enemy, despite its strength and deception. Yes, all the trust, all the love, and all the support for our delegation, for our knights while they are raising the sword of the homeland and the right of the people, in defense of the land and the holy places, in defense of history, the present, and the future.

The national anniversary comes this year, and you are on the threshold of a parliamentary election battle for the Knesset. The Knesset is an Israeli position governed by Israeli laws, put there for the benefit of Israel, but our national holy duty is to make it a theater of struggle despite all this. With your unity and agreement you are capable of curbing the arrogance of the Government of Israel, its oppression and racism, about which the oriental Jews have started to complain, and to make this a new proof of the extent of racism and a proof that a racist society has no future—it begins with the others and ends up by eating its own sons.

Beloved brothers, there is no giving up of what is right and no renouncing of just demands, but struggle with all available means to confront this enemy and his malicious ways. And those who strive in our cause, we will certainly guide them to our paths. [Koranic verse] God speaks the truth. The pledge is the same pledge and the commitment is the same commitment, and all together until victory, until holy Jerusalem, the capital of our independent Palestinian state, with God's permission, and until our flags are raised fluttering over the walls of Jerusalem, the churches of Jerusalem, and the minarets of Jerusalem, the site of the night journey of the Prophet Muhammad, God's prayers and peace be upon him, and the birth of Christ [as heard], peace be upon him.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. And then the believers will rejoice in God's victory, for He makes anyone He wishes victorious, and He is the powerful and compassionate. Verily God has spoken the truth. It is a revolution until victory.

'Arafat on Palestinians in Kuwait, Peace Process

JN2903170792 Paris AL-MUHARRIR in Arabic
30 Mar 92 p 3

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, identified by his nom de guerre of 'Abu-Ammar, by Nabil Maghribi and Hamidah Na'na' in Tunis; date not given]

[Excerpts] [AL-MUHARRIR] Several quarters have been saying that Palestinians were massacred in Kuwait and that many were killed, injured, or arrested. What does the Palestinian president say regarding what has been happening to Palestinians in Kuwait?

['Arafat] Yes, around 1,300 Palestinians, Egyptians, Sudanese, Yemenis, and Iraqis were liquidated. Two-thirds of them, however, were Palestinians. Add to this a large number of Arab detainees, including 9,000 Palestinians. A significant number of them were released after direct contacts with the Kuwaiti security organs.

We are now dealing with the problem of around 40,000 Palestinians who carry Arab travel documents and who have been asked to leave Kuwait, given that they have no place to go. The Kuwaiti authorities have given them an ultimatum and said that they will deport them in May. We have been making intensive efforts to extend the

deadline. Kuwait has rejected this, however. These people are experiencing a real tragedy because they are denied the right to work or reside in Kuwait. They are also not allowed to invite their children to visit them or to enroll them in schools or universities. They are even denied the right to receive medical treatment.

[AL-MUHARRIR] We return to the question: What have you done, and what has the PLO done, in this regard?

[Arafat] We have raised the issue at all levels, including the Arab League, the United Nations, and the Islamic conference in Dakar. As a result of our direct intervention the United Nations has asked the commissioner general of the UN Relief and Works Agency to follow up on this issue and to take a thorough look at the investigations being conducted in this regard, especially because the Kuwaiti authorities refuse to allow 40,000 Palestinians to remain in the emirate.

Faced with such stubbornness we have contacted several Arab states to accommodate as many of the Palestinian deportees as they can. We have succeeded in finding jobs for several skilled and specialized people, as well as technicians, in some Arab states. Others, however, are still facing problems. I will disclose to AL-MUHARRIR that the Sudanese Government has agreed to receive all the Palestinians if Kuwait insists on expelling them. The Sudanese approval came after talks with Lieutenant General al-Bashir—in spite of Sudan's hard economic conditions. The Sudanese president has agreed to give the deportees plots of land to be reclaimed and planted. [passage omitted]

[AL-MUHARRIR] Do you have any direct contact with the Kuwaiti Government at present?

[Arafat] No. There is no contact. In fact, the Palestinian embassy in Kuwait is officially besieged and cordoned off by security forces, and it is not being dealt with at any level. [passage omitted]

[AL-MUHARRIR] Can the PLO extend financial aid to those who have sustained losses in the crisis, especially given that there are exceptional cases in need of help?

[Arafat] We have never ignored this. The PLO paid millions of dollars at the outset of the crisis. We are now paying 12,000-15,000 Kuwaiti dinars per day to the poor Palestinian community in Kuwait. This is being taken care of by Muhammad 'Abd-al-Muhammad al-Jabir, Palestinian charge d'affaires in Kuwait. [passage omitted]

[AL-MUHARRIR] Do you believe that international changes support the establishment of a Palestinian state?

[Arafat, enthusiastically] This issue is no longer in dispute. Establishing a Palestinian state is certain, no matter how long it takes.

[AL-MUHARRIR] Prior to King Husayn's trip to Washington you received questions concerning the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship. What were your answers?

[Arafat] We said that we welcome coordination. As is well known, there is a written agreement between us concerning the joint delegation. There is another written agreement on the way to deal with the peace conference, including implementing Bush's land-for-peace initiative; Resolution 242, which means Israel's withdrawal from all the 1967-occupied Arab and Palestinian territories, and establishing the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people so as to establish a confederation between Jordan and Palestine after the proclamation of the state.

[AL-MUHARRIR] Why is the issue of confederation being raised now?

[Arafat] Jordan is not the one raising the issue. It is rather being done by some organizations which wish to create a tempest in a teapot only to remind others that they still exist. [passage omitted]

[AL-MUHARRIR] Are you coordinating with the Arab states bordering Israel on the peace process?

[Arafat] We are trying as hard as we can.

[AL-MUHARRIR] Why did you not go to Cairo when President Hafiz al-Asad was there?

[Arafat] I am not a gate-crasher.

[AL-MUHARRIR] We have seen statements accusing you of departing from the resolutions of the National Council. What is your reply?

[Arafat] It is the right of any small group to make their opinions public. We believe in democracy: The majority respects the opinions of the minority, and the minority complies with the opinions of the majority. [passage omitted]

Four Factions Support Jordanian Confederation

*JN3003133192 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1100 GMT 30 Mar 92*

[Text] Four Palestinian factions—the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Palestine Liberation Front, and the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front—have emphasized their commitment to the Palestine National Council decision concerning confederation with Jordan after the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. This is according to a statement issued by these four factions in Damascus today on the anniversary of Land Day.

The statement called on the PLO Central Council to carry out during its upcoming session an assessment of the policy which was adopted regarding the peace process, and to suspend the negotiations until the course of this policy is redressed, according to the text of the statement.

Report Assails 'Chaos' of Peace Talks Delegation*TA2403151292 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English
23 Mar 92 pp 4, 15*

[By AL-FAJR staff member 'Imad Musa: "Chaos, Credibility, and the Palestinians"]

[Text] In an open forum between the Palestinian public and six peace delegation members March 16, chief delegate Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi was forced to admit that there is "chaos" in the performance of Palestinians in the peace process. The chaos, he said, stemmed from disagreement in "the Palestinian house," i.e., the Palestinian leadership, the Palestinian people, and the Palestinian delegation.

'Abd-al-Shafi should be praised for his candor. The public and local journalists were grateful that he had been honest, and their respect for him surged. As they left the forum hall, all that could be heard was how they would rather hear from him in the future than from other delegation members who try to be overly diplomatic with their own constituency.

For decades, chaos has permeated the "Palestinian house." Under occupation, the population was never given a chance to "clean house" or organize itself. The leadership outside is marked by unaccountability within its ranks, as Palestinians refrain from criticizing themselves or their leadership, choosing instead to focus on the common enemy. Any self-criticism will only benefit the enemy in its propaganda campaigns, many Palestinians argue.

This line of thought was tolerated by Palestinian thinkers, journalists and writers—those responsible for acting as society's watchdogs—when the sole Palestinian goal was the liberation of the land, no matter how. There were no massive appeals for good relations with superpowers or for sympathetic public opinion.

But that has changed now, and a Palestinian delegation has replaced the Palestine Liberation Army as the liberator of the land. The delegation was chosen from the masses—educators, businessmen, doctors, lawyers—and were not seen to be infallible or beyond accountability.

Unfortunately, the leadership has changed roles without changing methods. Decisions are still made from the top-down, without much consideration for the base. For the Palestinian, it seems as if one person has violent mood swings. Decisions are made that do not seem to be worked out to the final detail, and many people do not seem to have been consulted in the decision-making process.

One of the most recent examples of this confusion came on March 11, when PLO information Director Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh announced that "Jordan has the right to request the return of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, according to U.N. Security Council Resolution 242."

Two days later, Palestine National Council (PNC) President 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih announced that "A confederation between our two countries (Palestine and

Jordan) is inevitable, and I see no reason why the issue should not be introduced now."

In the period between these two official statements, official delegation spokeswoman Hanan 'Ashrawi announced that after a summit between PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and King Husayn, a confederation would be announced. She noted that the summit would take place after at least one month.

What matters here are two things: how the announcement was made, and its timing.

At this stage in negotiations, the Palestinian delegation is focusing on obtaining a satisfactory autonomy, to deliver the population from direct Israeli occupation as soon as possible.

So why mention confederation at this point, except to splinter the concentration of the delegation? Confederation is an arrangement that could become the final solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. But the final solution will not be discussed until 1994, according to the negotiation protocols. Confederation is by no means an interim arrangement—the subject of current talks.

If we assume that PLO and Jordanian officials are simply discussing confederation to work out various details in preparation for its implementation in the long run, a second question arises: Why was the announcement made on such a high profile? Why did some of the highest PNC, PLO, and Palestinian delegation officials issue statements on confederation almost simultaneously, if the confederation meetings were not a new development on the scene? Confederation has been on the PLO agenda since the 16th session of the PNC, in 1983. Dialogue on the subject should be a normal occurrence, and should not be news to anyone, and should not be treated as major news by Palestinian officials.

Whether the PLO intended it or not, the method and timing of the announcement created confusion among the Palestinians and the Palestinian delegation.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi was forced to show his confusion in public. He began the open forum March 16 by saying, "I don't see why (confederation) should not be discussed now."

Delegate Sa'ib 'Urayqat was the first to explain the opposite. He said "In the interim period, the issue of authority is premature. Confederation has to do with the final status, not the interim status we are negotiating on now."

'Abd-al-Shafi rose to the podium again to agree, saying that he believed the confederation issue was indeed "premature."

Later, 'Abd-al-Shafi was forced to explain to his dumbfounded audience that "Unfortunately, there are no united Palestinian positions on (attending) the multilateral negotiations or confederation."

"Even in the delegation, there is no unity," he said.

Another contradiction that the delegation members had to deal with was the submission of a detailed plan for self-rule before reaching an agreement on the settlements issue. For the past four months, the delegation members have been promising the population that they will not deal with any subject whatsoever until settlements are stopped. They argued that if settlement-building was left to continue, there would be no more land to negotiate on.

In the last round of bilateral negotiations, they put the settlements issue on the shelf and submitted the self-rule proposal, angering two members of the delegation enough that they decided not to attend the final meeting of the last round of talks in Washington (That's what they said, at least). This action also angered about one-fourth of the representatives of the PNC, who signed a petition in protest.

Asked why they had done such a thing, 'Abd-al-Shafi said that "After much deliberation among ourselves, this is what we chose." That might have been the case, but the results don't show it. When asked if she thought the plan was realistic, especially the items dealing with specific timetables, 'Ashrawi said, "No, it will take more than one year to achieve autonomy."

Delegation members finally admitted that they were forced to submit the proposal to prove how serious they were about the negotiations process.

But this justification does not hold up. What will the Palestinians have to do in the next round to prove their seriousness? Accept the Israeli plan in full?

Palestinians find no problem with the idea of self-rule, but in the eyes of the public, the delegation broke its promise.

After the delegation concluded its open forum, 'Abd-al-Shafi was asked what he thought about the municipalities issue. In Gaza, advocate Fayiz Abu-Rahman has maintained that the outside leadership has authorized him to appoint a municipal council in the Gaza Strip. Previously, appointments have always been rejected as collaboration with Israeli authorities, and elections have always been demanded.

But specifically at this time, when a Palestinian peace delegation is negotiating in Washington not only on municipal elections, but national elections and Israeli withdrawal, it is strange that Palestinians in the occupied territories are authorized to negotiate with Israelis on a minor issue in comparison.

'Abd-al-Shafi said he wished that the Gaza municipality issue would be "deferred".

"This issue is weakening our position in Washington," he said.

In other words, 'Abd-al-Shafi knows that Israeli delegates will find no reason to negotiate with him if they can find another Palestinian in the Gaza Strip and West Bank who will do what Israel wants.

What 'Abd-al-Shafi said could have been deduced logically, but for him to admit it is worthy of study by the leadership, which is seemingly giving contradictory orders. By doing so, the delegation is robbed of the credibility and respectability that it critically needs to succeed in its public relations battles.

The same thing happened when the leadership was studying Palestinian attendance in the opening multilateral conference in Moscow last February. Contradictory reports came in on a daily basis for about a week. At times, Palestinians announced that they would not attend without proper representation. At others, Palestinian leaders announced that they were "optimistic" about attending. Then again, it was announced that Palestinians had worked out proper representation, and would be attending. Later, it would turn out that representation was not worked out, and the delegation was not travelling.

Suddenly delegation members left, not knowing exactly what would happen.

What kind of impression does that leave on the Palestinian people? What kind of respect does it lend the delegation as they arrive in Moscow, knocking on doors and not knowing which one will open?

To some, these problems might seem as minor mishaps that should be avoided when possible. In actuality, these are the predicaments that prevent progress and steal credibility from the Palestinians and their delegation.

It would be acceptable if such contradictions were few and infrequent, but the fact is they have become the norm since Madrid.

This is what damaged the PLO's image over the years, but the delegation was supposed to be different. Its members are highly educated, some in Western countries. They are able to appeal to public opinion much better than most PLO officials.

They could give the impression of a highly organized, efficient, professional group—if given the chance.

'Ashrawi Says Jerusalem 'Essence' of Issue

LD2903174492 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1645 GMT
29 Mar 92

[Text] Tunis, 29 Mar (JANA)—Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation in the bilateral talks between the Arab delegations and the Zionists, affirmed that Jerusalem is the essence of the Palestinian issue to which measures applicable to the rest of the occupied Arab territories also apply.

'Ashrawi affirmed in an interview with Tunisia's AL-SABAH published today that Jerusalem is an indivisible part of the occupied Arab territories and cannot be abandoned.

Algeria

Army Chief 'Hostile' to Fundamentalists Dismissed

LD3003201992 Paris Radio France International
in French 1830 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Excerpts] This afternoon we learned about the recent dismissal of Algerian Army chief General Mohamed Amari, a man who is considered to be among the military chiefs most hostile to Islamic fundamentalists. Anne Dissez reports:

[Dissez] We are talking about one of the highest-ranking officers in the Algerian Armed Forces, a major general and commander of the ground forces. He was known for his particular firmness vis-a-vis the Islamic Salvation Front. [passage omitted]

One can wonder now whether this retirement is not linked to the releases announced for the 'Id weekend. These releases have already begun. About 150 people have already been released from the Reggane camp today, and others were released on Sunday from the i-n-Salah camp.

Government Denies Direct Israeli Telephone Links

LD2803233492 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in Arabic 2300 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Text] Algeria has no direct telephone link with Israel and it has no intention of changing its stand on this matter. This was emphasized in a statement by the Algerian Administration of Post and Telecommunications in reply to reports from Israel regarding the initiation of telephone links with our country.

The Administration of Post and Telecommunications considers this information nothing but a falsehood and devoid of truth.

Egypt

Interior Minister on Extremists, 'Torture'

NC2803094292 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic
27 Mar 92 pp 14, 15, 62

[Interview with Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa by Sayyid Zaki; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Zaki] Let us review events that have taken place in al-Fayyum over the past few years. The al-Shawqiyun group has become very vocal, even going so far as demanding protection money from ordinary citizens. The group's members clashed with the 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman group and with other local groups. They killed a survey engineer and his assistant. What is the attitude of the security authorities toward this group?

[Musa] We dealt with this group from its inception. Shawqi al-Shaykh, the leader of the al-Shawqiyun group,

broke away from the 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman group and installed himself as prince of the dissidents. He used to travel in a car with armed guards. When we learned of this, we firmly confronted the group. Things calmed down and the group escaped from the area. Some of the group's members are wanted for attacking the security forces, for killing a police officer and a watchman, and for beating a village leader. The members, who used to be fishermen at Qaran Lake, escaped to al-Ghardaqah, Ismailia, and Suez.

After a survey engineer and his assistant were killed, we received information that the extremists still had a consultative council. The prince of the council ordered the engineer's killing on the pretext that he was a policeman or a detective. Some of the defendants in the case were arrested and brought to trial, others managed to escape. Then came the recent attack on a state security officer, which amounted to an escalation by the group. This plan, however, is bigger than the capability of the locals, following 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman's escape to the United States. [sentence as published]

[Zaki] Does 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman still have a hand in these activities? Is he, consequently, behind the activity of the factions which have broken away from him? What is his involvement with the Americans?

[Musa] I cannot acquit him. He is in contact with these groups and sends them funds. He sent two checks to his wife—one for \$40,000 and the other for \$60,000. We know the numbers of these two checks. His story with the Americans began when he met with Hasan al-Turabi in Sudan. Al-Turabi got him a visa, thus enabling him to travel to the United States. [passage omitted]

[Zaki] What happened during your discussions with Amnesty International?

[Musa] There have been no discussions. Amnesty International says that the extremists and their activists sent it some letters. Opposition papers have also written some exaggerated reports. We told Amnesty International to come and visit any place it wants. Amnesty International representatives said torture takes place in the ministry's building, the state security building, and the prisons. When they visited these places, however, they found nothing worth writing about. We could have refused to receive them, but we accepted the challenge because we have nothing to hide. [passage omitted]

[Zaki] What is the current number of political and criminal prisoners [mu'taqalin]?

[Musa] Some 608 people are being detained for political crimes including 487 extremists, 10 sectarians, and 95 foreign nationals. The criminal detainees number about 445 and are being held on charges of drug trafficking, abuse of public funds, racketeering, and theft. [passage omitted]

Spy Case 'Will Not Affect' Israeli Ties

NC3003144692 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1350 GMT
30 Mar 92

[Text] Jeddah, 30 Mar (MENA)—Interior Minister 'Abd-al-Halim Musa said there are no clauses in the agreement between Egypt and Israel preventing the trial of the Misrati family under Egyptian law. He denied that the Misrati family, which is accused of spying, is receiving special treatment in a special prison.

In an interview with the Saudi paper 'UKAZ, the minister denied that any (?figures) or officials are involved in the case.

He added that the issue of the Misrati family will not affect relations between Egypt and Israel and that the penal law will be applied. The penalties in such cases range from imprisonment to hard labor.

Suspects Remain in Custody

NC2903154992 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1400 GMT
29 Mar 92

[Text] Cairo 29 Mar (MENA)—Today the judges of the Court of Heliopolis, a Cairo suburb, met in camera and decided to remand in custody the defendants involved in the Israeli spy ring led by Faris Subhi Misrati 45 more days, pending further investigation in connection with the case.

The Supreme State Security Prosecution requested that the defendants remain in custody to keep confidential the investigation that the ring gathered military and strategic information about Egypt and sent it to Israel.

Nigerian Finance Minister Meets With Mubarak

NC2803070792 Cairo Egyptian Space Channel
in Arabic 1500 GMT 24 Mar 92

[Text] President Mubarak received Nigerian Finance Minister Abubakar Alhaji at the Presidential Office this morning, in a meeting attended by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Nigerian Ambassador to Egypt Mustafa Sam.

Following the meeting, the Nigerian minister said that he conveyed to President Mubarak greetings from Nigerian President Ibrahim Babangida. He added that he reviewed issues of mutual interest with President Mubarak.

Alhaji pointed out that while in Egypt, he will discuss the timetable for visits between Egyptian and Nigerian businessmen. He expects the first delegation of Nigerian businessmen to arrive in Cairo after 'Id al-Fitr. He said bilateral cooperation will cover all fields.

Ethiopian Planning Official Meets 'Amr Musa

NC2703114992

[Editorial Report] Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1435 GMT on 24 March 1992 carries an item stating that "Ethiopian Planning Minister Duri Mohamed met with Dr. Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and minister of planning," to discuss bilateral cooperation. "The Ethiopian minister was briefed on Egyptian negotiations with the World Bank and IMF and heard explanations of the scope of Egypt's economic reform plan and the Third Five-Year Plan for Economic and Social Development. The meeting was attended by the adviser to the Ethiopian president on economic matters, and the Ethiopian ambassador to Egypt."

Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic at 1100 GMT on 25 March reports that the Ethiopian official met with Foreign Minister Musa and discussed bolstering "bilateral economic and trade cooperation."

Cairo MENA in Arabic at 0808 GMT on 27 March reports that the Ethiopian official left Cairo "early this morning after a four-day visit."

Libya

European Parliament Views on Lockerbie Reported

LD3103103692 Tripoli JANA in English 0901 GMT
31 Mar 92

[Text] Tripoli, al-Rabi' [March] 31, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The European Parliament called for the need to deal with the American airline incident in a manner which complies with the dictates of the United Nations Charter and the rules of international law.

They also called for the need to refrain from the language of force and threats which the American Administration is pursuing against the Great Jamahiriya in the disagreement which involves the Pan American airline incident.

This came as a result of a resolution adopted by the European Parliament and signed by 23 members.

This resolution sets out the necessary legal quorum to sign any resolution through the meeting convened by the European Parliament with an Arab-European contact group which comprises political and legal activists from France, Greece, Morocco, Algeria, Spain, Malta and Tunisia, who are interested in international legal affairs and human rights in the world.

The European Parliament also called in its resolution the heads of the parliamentary delegations in the European Parliament to send this resolution to the secretary general of the United Nations, to the Governments of the United States and the member countries in the EEC and to the foreign ministers in their sessional meetings.

This group had put forward the legal aspects of the [words indistinct] ongoing, [word indistinct] disagreement between the Great Jamahiriya on the one [words indistinct] America, [words indistinct] Britain and France on the other side [word indistinct] a committee for disarmament and peace and had also presented the political aspects before the Committee of the Parliament of the Left.

These two committees are made up of 115 deputies including members from the Movement for Abiding by the United Nations Charter.

The European Parliament adopted this resolution which was presented by the British MP's [members of parliament] Ken Cox and Stanley Ties as a result of the contact initiated by the Arab European Working Group.

In another development, another parliamentary group headed by Claude Cheysson and ten other members, presented a response to the European Parliament within the framework of conducting a general discussion of this matter.

This response confirmed that by not reaching a peaceful solution to the disagreement involving the American

Government and the governments of two member countries of the EEC on the one side and the Great Jamahiriya on the other side and the need to abide by the Montreal Convention of 1971 concerning the safety of civilian airlines to protect them against acts of violence and terrorism.

After the response a number of questions were put forward to seek ways to find which is the best measure to take by the French and British courts to ensure that there is abidance by this agreement.

Otherwise, the council might deem it fit that it is preferable to present this disagreement to the International Court of Justice to pass judgement on it.

Syria Sends 'Well Wishes' to al-Qadhdhafi

LD3103093392 Tripoli JANA in English 0849 GMT
30 Mar 92

[Text] Tripoli, al-Rabi' [March] 30, JANA, Arab Maghreb Union Pool—The leader of the revolution received well wishes from President Hafiz al-Asad the president of the Republic of sisterly Syria on the 22nd anniversary of the ridding of British forces and bases from the Libyan Arab land.

Kuwait

No Delay in Invasion Compensation Seen

LD2803100992 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1000 GMT
26 Mar 92

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 26 Mar (KUNA)—'Abd-al-Rahman al-Hawati, chairman of the general board for assessing the losses caused by the Iraqi aggression, said that it is unlikely that the payment of compensation to those who suffered damages will be delayed despite the procrastination of the Iraqi regime.

He said: "We are now at the stage of submitting the claims, which need time for review and careful examination. Radical solutions are expected to be reached before the payment date."

This was mentioned in his statements published in today's editions of AL-ANBA' and SAWT AL-KUWAYT following his return from Geneva after he participated in the meetings of the committee for compensation held there. [passage omitted]

Al-Hawati also said that the applications for individuals who suffered damages and whose losses exceeded \$100,000 would be issued soon.

Official Denies Telephone Links With Israel

LD3103091292 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1305 GMT
30 Mar 92

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 30 Mar (KUNA)—Kuwait and other Arab states have denied reports concerning their efforts to open telephone links with Israel. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Ayyub, under secretary of the Ministry of Communications, said that Kuwait had not taken any steps to open telephone links with Israel. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Patriot Missile Secrets Reportedly Leaked to China

LD3003151192 London THE SUNDAY TELEGRAPH
in English 29 Mar 92 p 2

[By Adrian Porter]

[Text] The American Defence Department is now convinced that secrets of its Patriot anti-missile system, which are known to have been leaked to China, were passed on by Saudi Arabia and not Israel—as originally alleged.

Both countries were supplied with Patriots during and after the Gulf war and both have weapons agreements with China.

A team of investigators from the Pentagon and the State Department, which has been in Israel inquiring into the leak is due to return to Washington in the next few days with a preliminary report that is understood to clear Israel of blame.

Israel was first thought to be the culprit because it has strengthened ties with China in the past six months.

The Israeli Defence Minister, Moshe Arens, led a secret mission to Peking last autumn. Confirmation of the American suspicions would have put further strain on the already shaky relations between the two countries.

Pentagon sources say, however, that the Israeli intelligence agency Mossad has come up with what is said to be strong evidence that details of Patriot technology were given to Chinese technicians who maintain and service Chinese missiles in Saudi Arabia.

The American investigators in Israel have been told that in a deal made by a Saudi minister during a Peking visit in 1988, both countries undertook to trade information on each other's missile systems. The main outcome of the deal, however, was China's agreement to provide Saudi Arabia with CSS-2 missiles capable of striking at many Middle East targets.

China was thought to be well behind Western technology in the design and production of anti-missile missiles such as the Patriot which, after its successes against Iraqi Scuds launched against Israel and Saudi Arabia during the Gulf war, is regarded as the outstanding weapon in its field and one the Chinese are obviously desperate to learn more about.

A Chinese copy of the Patriot would add to Peking's ability to sell even more missiles to foreign countries than it does at the moment.

Ministry Refutes Reported Israeli Phone Links

LD2903225892 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television
Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Text] In reply to reports published by some Western papers citing Israel as saying that it has established telephone links with some Arab countries including Saudi Arabia, a responsible source at the Posts, Telephone, and Telegraph Ministry said in a statement to SPA: We wish to make clear and to emphasize that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will not permit any telephone contacts with Israel.

United Arab Emirates

Official Denies Israeli Direct-Dial Service

JN3003160992 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1420 GMT
30 Mar 92

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 30 Mar (WAKH)—'Ali Salim al-Uways, director general of the Emirates Corporation for Telecommunications, has announced that there is no direct-dial service between the United Arab Emirates and Israel.

At a news conference held here today, al-Uways said that the corporation concentrates on its basic services to keep pace with modern telecommunications technology in developed countries. [passage omitted]

Paper Condemns UN Decision Maintaining Sanctions*JN310311092 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0903 GMT
31 Mar 92*

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Mar (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has strongly condemned the recent UN Security Council's decision to maintain the economic blockade against Iraq in compliance with the wishes of the United States and its allies in order to implement their evil schemes in the region.

In an article published today the paper adds: Once again the UN Security Council has maintained the economic blockade against our country in a bid to crush its steadfastness and firmness, to impose the will of the aggressors, and to facilitate the implementation of their evil aggressive schemes in the region. This decision is aimed at preying on us in the name of international legitimacy on the pretext that Iraq has thus far failed to comply with the Security Council resolutions although all facts, field activities, and visits by UN committees and international inspection teams which came to Iraq and carried out their missions and work and continue to do so are saying otherwise. These committees and teams should at least be questioned and their views obtained in this regard. It was only recently that these teams and committees expressed their satisfaction with and thanks for Iraq's efforts to facilitate their missions, for it had implemented 90 percent of the provisions contained in the resolution [not further identified].

Besides, members of the Security Council are fully aware that Iraq is responsive and that it provided ample evidence of this with facts and figures providing sites, details, schedules, and programs before the Council during the visit made by the deputy prime minister and his delegation in a show of good faith. This, the paper notes, should have been met with good faith on the part of the Council, which must make an effort to show itself as a credible and effective institution which is ready to treat Iraq fairly and to remove the injustice and wrong done to it as a result of the maintenance and perpetuation of this blockade.

The paper emphasizes that the new decision to maintain the economic blockade and the lackluster statement concerning this demonstrate that this decision evidently has failed to take note of the facts and the glaring truth known to all members of the Council. This is, the paper adds, because the issue is merely a manifestation of cheap and ugly exploitation of the resolution aimed at promoting the objectives of U.S. imperialism and its allies. The Bush administration, Major's government, and their small, dwarfish allies have not concealed their concern and fears that the blockade might end without achieving the objectives of their aggression, especially since the dust of the battles has disappeared and many facts have begun to be revealed. Besides, the paper maintains, the world has begun to understand the far-reaching implications of the tragedy as well as the magnitude of the damage caused by this heinous blockade. Moreover, voices have begun to be raised here and there explicitly calling for an end to what is taking place under the

roof of this Council and also for an end to the flagrant interference of the U.S. delegate, who is dictating his conditions and terms in a bid to have them adopted against the wishes of the international community.

AL-THAWRAH adds that the maintenance of the unjust blockade against our country affirms once again that the only language permitted and deemed permissible is the language of threats, intimidation, terrorism, and blackmail used by the U.S. delegate and his British lackey. The recent public threat leveled against the PRC stating that it might lose certain privileges unless it halts its "quarrelsomeness," its objections to, and its dissatisfaction with the U.S. travesty that is being played out on the stage of the Security Council with the aim of using it to promote U.S. interests as if it were merely a U.S. company meant to market U.S. commodities, is a sign of a desire to muzzle all voices that could entertain the idea of merely voicing objections to the travesties being exhibited.

Concluding its article the paper says: The maintenance of the blockade is a clear U.S. message that the unjust aggressive scheme against our country remains unchanged, and also that the enemies are betting on the time factor to weaken us and undermine our will. This also serves as an indicator and message to fraternal Libya to blackmail it through the UN Security Council. The freezing of fraternal Libya's assets as well as the assets of the companies which deal with it is merely a prelude to a flagrant U.S. aggression and a move meant to dictate unfair resolutions against it.

Regime Reportedly Fires Officers, Party Members*NC3003164992 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People
in Arabic 1400 GMT 30 Mar 92*

[Text] The dictator Saddam Husayn's authorities have fired a number of ranking officers from the 4th Army Corps and entrenched party members in al-'Amarah Governorate. They also confiscated funds for failing to oppress the popular uprising in the governorate against the tyrant's regime.

Informed sources said that among the fired officers are the commander of the 4th Army Corps helicopter unit, Brigadier General Najid, Flight Lieutenant Colonel Talal Rashid al-Munahi, and Staff Lt. Col. Faysal Dahham, whom Saddam had decorated with three medals for bravery; and a number of entrenched party members, the most prominent being the so-called 'Ulwan al-Shab, whose funds were confiscated despite the fact that he had served the tyrant and his ruling party for 27 years.

Saddam Orders Services for Autonomous Kurdistan*JN3003193492 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic
29 Mar 92 p 1*

[Text] Following the instructions of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, official administrative and service agencies in Fa'idah District of Dahuk Governorate

began providing services to the public in the autonomous region of Kurdistan yesterday.

Dahuk Deputy Governor Husayn 'Umar al-Shaykhali told INA's correspondent in the governorate that considerable allocations have been set aside for service projects to be completed in record time to meet the requirements of the population and to ensure the flow of food according to the ration cards certified by the Ministry of Trade.

Administrative and service departments in Fa'idah are now catering to hundreds of the general public, and all telephone and post services will be operational in the next few days.

The deputy noted that the committee to aid the victims of the treacherous 30-state aggression and the chapter of treason and treachery has processed 3,000 applications for relief.

Minister: U.S. Working To 'Sabotage' Agriculture

JN3003192892 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1655 GMT
30 Mar 92

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Mar (INA)—Agriculture and Irrigation Minister 'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud has emphasized that the United States and its agents are intentionally working to sabotage Iraq's agricultural production to deprive Iraqis of food.

In an expanded dialogue with chief editors of newspapers and media officials which was attended by Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi, Mr. Mahmud said that the United States still insists on preventing Iraq from obtaining agricultural machinery, tools, and other requirements for agricultural production such as seed and fertilizer. It has invented various excuses to hinder the control of eurygaster integriceps [hasharat al-suna], which has infested wheat fields north of the 36th parallel during the past season, he said.

He added that the United States and its agents have also carried out large-scale operations to smuggle Iraq's animal wealth through Saudi Arabia to complete their criminal scheme against Iraq.

He emphasized that the competent services at the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, in cooperation with the concerned companies, are continuing their efforts to rebuild agricultural projects destroyed during the sinful 30-state aggression.

He stated that the ministry is also continuing to implement plans to expand the agricultural infrastructure through further land reclamation and the building of dams and irrigation regulators.

Trade Minister Discusses Rationing, Price Hikes

JN2703170292 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic
24 Mar 92 p 8

[Text] Baghdad—Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih has announced that the prime objective of the operations room responsible for securing the people's food supplies since the blockade was enforced has been to prevent mass deaths caused by shortages of food and medicine.

In an open dialogue held yesterday with chief editors of newspapers, magazines, and other media agencies convened by Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi, the trade minister added that measures concerning the decided upon supply system went into effect on 4 August. The first decision that George Bush signed, the minister noted, as part of a series of anti-Iraq measures froze Iraqi assets in U.S. banks. This took place on the night of 2-3 August 1990, the minister stated.

The minister pointed out that one of the most important issues preoccupying the minds of those working at the operations room affiliated with the Ministry of Trade concerned the provision of milk to children to guard against mass deaths of Iraqi infants. Therefore, urgent measures were taken to inspect the available dry and packaged milk at the time, the minister said.

The trade minister answered questions from chief editors, commented on their views regarding ration cards, the status of the free market, the problems of smuggling and brokers, and the priority sequences in the past and present. He also acknowledged the importance of the newspapers' efforts to provide readers with facts and to refrain from exaggeration and making unsubstantiated charges. He added: We wish to see the press provide an analysis of the trade situation and solutions to its hurdles. He agreed with the views expressed by Hamid Yusuf Hammadi and other media people who took part in the dialogue concerning the need to include every supply commodity available at the Ministry of Trade on ration cards instead of having them sold through other outlets, for ration cards provide an element of equality, not to mention that these cards have proven to be successful and have won the satisfaction of Iraqi society. Those present agreed on the need to continue using these cards even after the blockade is lifted and when the bottlenecks created by it are eliminated.

The trade minister analyzed the reasons behind the emergence of four waves of price hikes on the free market and the subsequent rapid decline in prices. He indicated that the first wave of price hikes took place prior to the start of the military aggression. A second wave of price hikes ensued during the aggression. A third wave of price hikes was experienced after the circulation of rumors that the Tirbil border post had been closed. Markets saw the fourth wave of price hikes more than a month ago when traffic across the borders with Turkey and Jordan was disrupted by snow and poor weather

conditions. This coincided, the minister noted, with the pumping by Saudi Arabia of Iraqi currency abroad as part of an attempt to bring about a devaluation of the Iraqi dinar at a time when the head of the CIA was touring the region to coordinate conspiracies against Iraq.

The minister expressed the belief that the presence of brokers in the market is an additional thing which contributed to price hikes. He pointed out that price hikes were brought to an end with a rapid decline in prices. This decline in prices, he maintained, was caused by an increase in the quantities of commodities available for sale, and also by the expectations met by free market merchants.

The minister put the private sector's contribution to the food supply market at 15 percent of Iraq's needs. He noted that the state has provided peasants, in accordance with the ration cards issued to all citizens, with twice the amount of flour received from them in the form of cereals even though each peasant is supposed to provide his own cereal requirements as well as the requirements of two other citizens. This makes it incumbent upon us, those working in the media and economic sectors, to provide incentives for agricultural production, to enhance the motivation of peasants, and to fight consumerist tendencies.

Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi interjected, saying that the state's role is confined to increasing the amounts of commodities offered for sale, providing organization, and monitoring the supply situation. He added that the price fluctuations we are seeing are caused by foreign pressures and rumors.

In one of his comments Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih said: I am not worried about prices in the local market. What is important is to provide food supplies to the people and to motivate the national production sector. If we are to prioritize things then prices come second; that is, after the provision of food supplies to the people.

The trade minister provided comparisons citing figures. These comparisons indicate that before ration cards were introduced a large amount of the food allocated for human consumption was smuggled out, used as fodder, or wasted.

The dialogue organized and managed by Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi brought together Nuri Najm, Naji al-Hadithi, Sa'd al-Bazzaz, 'Adnan al-Juburi, Amir al-Hilu, Sabah Yasin, Kamil al-Sharqi, Hani Wahib, Badr-Khan al-Sindi, Nasrallah al-Dawudi, Faysal al-Yasiri, and Muhammad al-Ansari.

Reportage on Government-Kurdish Northern Clashes

Army Shelling Causes Casualties

NC2903181792 (*Clandestine*) *Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic* 1600 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Text] The dictatorial forces used artillery to shell the area of Aski Kalak, the (Khabat) complex, and the village of (Bashiryan), in Irbil Governorate, yesterday afternoon. The peshmerga forces returned the fire. Citizens were martyred and the inhabitants of the areas abandoned their homes as a result of the shelling.

On the night of 27-28 March the dictatorial forces also used artillery to shell the village of Safiyah, causing the villagers to abandon their homes.

Kurdish Refugee Camp Shelled

LD3003103292 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian* 0930 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] An exchange of artillery fire in southern Irbil Governorate between the Iraqi Army and Kurdish opponents of the Baghdad regime resulted in the death of 20 Ba'thist troops. The exchange of fire between the two sides began yesterday with the Iraqi Army shelling the (?Gajikalk) region and a camp for Kurdish refugees. The shelling of the camp resulted in civilians suffering extensive casualties and material losses. The heavy shelling caused the residents of the region to leave their houses.

The Kurds of northern Iraq yesterday sent a letter to the UN secretary general asking him to put pressure on the Iraqi regime to stop its shelling of Kurdish regions in the north of the country.

Army Intensifying Attacks

LD3003090392 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian* 0730 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] Three massive explosions around the town of Darbandikhan in Iraq, following a flight by an Iraqi fighter aircraft, were heard in the border regions of northwestern Bakhtaran Province last night.

According to an IRNA correspondent the explosions are a continuation of the attacks by the Iraqi Army against the Kurdish-inhabited regions in the north of that country.

During the past few days the Iraqi Army has intensified its attacks against the Kurds in the north and Iraqi Shiites in the south. Incoming reports speaking of increased military activity inside Iraqi territory are indicative of these reports.

Regime's Southern Offensive Reportedly Repelled

NC2803154892 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People
in Arabic 1400 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Text] Sources of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] have emphasized that the tyrant Saddam Husayn personally planned the barbaric attack on the (Horsilbi) area in al-Basrah Governorate. The sources said that the dictator Saddam went to the city of al-Basrah for this purpose at the beginning of the month of Ramadan, met with the commanders of his forces and mercenaries in a place near (Horsilbi), and ordered them to quickly implement the attack plan using all types of weapons, including helicopters and artillery, and to kill, destroy, and burn everything before them without exception.

The sources cited a high-ranking officer as saying that the tyrant told his mercenaries that he wants to hear that the (Horsilbi) issue is over and done with upon his return to Baghdad.

The tyrant's forces launched an attack lasting more than two weeks, but the valiant popular forces in the area repulsed the attack, inflicted heavy losses in personnel and equipment on the tyrant's forces, and shot down a helicopter which was seen falling in a ball of fire into the marshland.

The sources said that the tyrant's forces launched a second and third attack on the same area without achieving any progress other than killing scores of women and children in (Hor) with their long-range artillery fire.

Ba'th Department Praises U.S. Party's Support

JN2503135692 Baghdad INA in English 1320 GMT
25 Mar 92

[Text] Baghdad, Mar. 25, INA—Foreign Relations Office of the Regional Command of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party has hailed the stance of the Alternative American National Peace and Prosperity Party [as received] in blasting the double yardstick policies of the U.S. Administration.

In a letter to the U.S. party, the Ba'th Party office appreciated the party's statement that covered various national, regional and international issues.

The letter added that President Saddam Husayn said on different occasions that the U.S. and its allies are applying double standards in dealing with international issues.

They bombed Iraq, imposed embargo on its people under the pretext of international legitimacy while turning a blind eye to Israeli crimes against Arabs in Palestine and south Lebanon. These crimes are committed with the U.S. Administration encouragement and blessing.

The letter went on to say that Umm al-Ma'arik (Mother of Battles) has uncovered the false claims and slogans of human rights and international legitimacy and the new world order that is not applied on Israel.

The Foreign Relations Office hoped that good relations and cooperation between the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party and the U.S. party can be established to help enhance peace and justice in the world.

Shamir Sees No Reason for Levi's Resignation*TA3003161192 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1400 GMT 30 Mar 92*

[News conference with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir during a tour of Migdal Ha'emeq—live]

[Text] [Shamir, broadcast in progress] ...I thought it was a joke. This should never have happened between us. It is unnatural, artificial.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el's Menahem Hecht] We hear people saying today that the ball is now in the prime minister's court. Some even said that you now have the loaded gun, and that it is your turn to make a move.

[Shamir] I saw some children with toy guns. [laughs] I know nothing of guns or balls. We are all of the same tribe, the same sector, the same nation. We will walk together.

[IDF Radio's Ge'ula Even] Some of your associates say that this is a trick pulled by David Levi to extort things from you.

[Shamir] I cannot be squeezed. What do I have? We all believe in the same things. We belong to the same party. The same spirit guides us. There are no differences between us. What is there to extort?

[Jerusalem Israel Television's Salman al-Tawil] How did you feel last night when you heard Levi's harsh remark that your sectarian discrimination has pushed him into a corner?

[Shamir] First of all, he did not speak of sectarian discrimination. He said he belongs to no sect. There is only one sect he belongs to: the people of Israel. I liked that very much. The truth is that I failed to understand all the other remarks about discrimination and inequity. Since the day I joined this movement, and even in the days before, I have never encountered such things in our world. There are no such things here; there never have been and never will be.

[Al-Tawil] How will you refer to his notice of resignation, if Levi indeed quits next Sunday? Will you appoint another foreign minister?

[Shamir] He should not go through with this. There is no justification for it. I said several days ago: Whatever happens in the future, he will be foreign minister and deputy prime minister. There is no argument about that.

[Al-Tawil] Will you accept some of his demands? He speaks of 30 percent representation, for example.

[Shamir] I do not want to hear about percentages. I said that there are no differences of opinion inside the Likud and, therefore, there is no room for factions. We think alike. We feel the same. There are no two ways about it: We must walk together!

[Unidentified correspondent asking an unmonitored question about the quiet Land Day]

[Shamir] This is very good. I was glad to hear that the Israeli Arabs decided that this day should pass quietly and in an orderly way. I regard this as an encouraging development. I hope this will continue in the years to come. For us, this means that there is a development in the direction of peace and coexistence. Thank you.

[Even] Let me just add that before we joined the news conference, the prime minister said that he does not understand why Levi did what he did. His resignation was certainly unexpected. The prime minister added that he was not ready for it, and that there is no reason for his resignation to stand. He did not publicly call on Minister David Levi to retract his resignation announcement, but said: There is no reason for this resignation. I am sure that Minister Levi wants to stay on as foreign minister, and I see no reason why differences that can be solved inside the Likud should not be solved. That is why Levi has to stay in his post, having no special problems, the prime minister said.

Levi Declines Comment*TA3103105192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0905 GMT 31 Mar 92*

[Interview with Foreign Minister David Levi by political correspondent Arye Golan outside Israel Bar Association in Jerusalem on 31 March—recorded]

[Text] [Golan] When the prime minister spoke about a joke yesterday, did you laugh?

[Levi] Look sir, I came here to work, and I will not comment on jokes or any remarks whatsoever; that is all.

[Golan] Do you believe Prime Minister Shamir is making some effort to solve the crisis, or is he, in fact, letting you go?

[Levi] I said I will comment on nothing. I have submitted what I believe should be submitted, and my letter of resignation will be filed according to legal procedure.

[Golan] Will you also quit the Likud, or will you stay on in the party? Some say that you may set up a new party.

[Levi] Are you interrogating me? I have already said all that I have to say.

Levi's Followers React*TA3003202592 Jerusalem Israel Television Network
in Hebrew 1800 GMT 30 Mar 92*

[Text] Reacting to Yitzhaq Shamir's remarks today that he sees no reason for Levi's resignation, members of Levi's camp say that if the prime minister treats the reasons for the crisis in the party as a joke and if he claims he does not understand what the crisis is all about, then he does not realize his own role in the outbreak of the crisis. Therefore, Levi's followers say,

there was no chance of his settling the crisis to begin with. Staffers in Levi's office say the prime minister continues to object to a proper democratic representation of Levi's camp in accordance with its size in the Likud Central Committee. Thus, Shamir is indicating that the boycott against one sector of the Likud will continue in the future, Levi's associates say.

Arens Hopes Levi Reconsiders

TA3103094692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0905 GMT 31 Mar 92

[Interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by Hayim Hecht during Arens' tour of the Jordan Rift Valley on 31 March—recorded]

[Text] [Hecht] It is clearly evident that Minister Moshe Arens would rather comment on Shiite activities in Lebanon and the Patriot crisis, but when he arrived in the Jordan Rift Valley, the press charged at him with questions about David Levi's resignation.

[Arens] I would rather not comment. This certainly does not help us at election time. I hope, however, that we will overcome it.

[Hecht] Do you believe that the prime minister, you, or other senior Likud members should make some move to mend the rift in the Likud?

[Arens] The rift should be mended, of course, though I wish I knew what move should be made.

[Hecht] After Levi resigned, all sorts of harsh voices were heard making charges of sectarian discrimination. What do you think about it?

[Arens] I cannot detect any discrimination on the grounds of origin in the Likud, Israel, the Army, the defense establishment, or in Israeli politics.

[Hecht] One of the newspapers said today that you oppose the tendency of some Likud ministers to give Levi what he is asking for and that in the Likud discussions you voiced the opinion that that is the situation, now that the septets have been elected in democratic elections.

[Arens] I was not asked, nor did I attend a discussion on this matter.

[Hecht] Some Likud members are interpreting Arens' moves to mean that he would not mourn if Levi acts on his resignation notice. Arens said this morning that he hopes Levi will withdraw his resignation announcement.

Sources Fear Limited Syrian Move on Golan

TA3103063092 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0500 GMT 31 Mar 92

[Report by army affairs correspondent 'Ido Baum]

[Excerpts] Israel must be prepared for the possibility that Syria might decide to initiate a limited military operation as an outcome of a certain international or political situation, senior military sources have said. The sources believe that al-Asad might consider a limited war on the Golan Heights aimed at diverting the political process in a direction desirable for Syria. [passage omitted]

The sources made it clear that if al-Asad opts for a military operation, its purpose would be to advance a process; this is why it will be limited in scope and means, and will probably not include attacks on Israel's home front. [passage omitted]

Referring to the situation in south Lebanon, the military sources reported that Iran has furnished Hizballah with funds to repair damages suffered in the recent flare-up last February. The sources said that tension is mounting on both sides, in Israel and among the terrorists. This is one of the reasons for the sporadic katyusha and light weapons fire at SLA [South Lebanese Army] outposts and the security zone in general.

Israel plans no irregular operation and has no intention of being dragged into irreversible processes in Lebanon which could exacerbate the situation, the military sources said. They believe that Hizballah will step up operations in Lebanon and will attempt to carry out spectacular attacks and to find more weak spots to hurt Israel.

Additional Remarks

TA3103051692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0405 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Report by army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe]

[Text] The Syrians continue trying to attain strategic parity with Israel. Over the past several years, the Syrian Army has doubled in size and today has 12 divisions. The Army's growth includes the acquisition of new weapons and an increasing number of offensive exercises in an attempt to draw conclusions from the Gulf war. Recently, Syria has been purchasing additional advanced T-72 battle tanks, upgrading its armored and mechanized divisions and its artillery deployment. The Syrians are also trying to purchase missile batteries for air defense. They have 100 assault helicopters, MiG-29's, Sukhoy-24's, and hundreds of surface-to-surface missiles.

Despite the peace process, senior military sources said, there has been no freeze in Syrian arms procurement. The sources noted that Syria might attempt a limited military move to advance the peace process and perhaps gain something, if it feels that the peace talks have reached a dead end. Speaking to military correspondents, a senior officer said yesterday that Israel must consider the possibility of a Syrian combat operation for a limited target, on a limited area, using a limited force. We have the ability to make the other side pay dearly for even a limited combat operation, the officer stated.

It is not easy to pinpoint the precise trend of developments in the Middle East, the sources added, saying that the Syrians have three primary options: continue the peace process; initiate a restricted military operation with conventional weapons—as was said before; or directly or indirectly initiate or encourage terror activity from across the Lebanese border or in other locations in the world.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0400 GMT on 31 March adds: "A senior officer has said that the confrontation with Hizballah entails serious contemplation and thought before an act is carried out. He noted that Israel has determined the scope of its struggle against terrorism for every location and aim, and that there is more than one way to fight terrorism. According to him, certain elements have tried to lead us to undesirable directions in Lebanon, but we have had enough wars, and are on guard on this."]

Arens on Sources' Remarks

TA3103104592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0905 GMT 31 Mar 92

[Interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by Hayim Hecht during Arens' tour of the Jordan Rift Valley on 31 March—recorded]

[Text] [Hecht] The defense minister did not like the extensive media coverage of the remarks by the senior officer who said, among other things, that Syria might initiate a limited military move on the Golan Heights to promote its stands in the peace process.

[Arens] It is not a matter of opinion. Such decisions, if they are made, will be made in Damascus. We know that Syria has a large army, that it has a totalitarian regime, and that a decision on whether or not to launch war could be made by one man who needs nobody's approval. Such a decision can be made in a very short time; that is why this possibility always exists. Still, we have had no indication recently that the Syrians or Hafiz al-Asad are contemplating a move in this direction. This, however, is not impossible.

[Hecht] Syrian fingerprints are clearly detectable in the recent terrorist activity in south Lebanon.

[Arens] The Syrians are apparently providing support for Hizballah, and the only one trying to prevent their activity in the area is us, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces].

[Hecht] Even old-timer commentators in Lebanon are surprised by the Israeli restraint regarding the provocative shooting by Hizballah and other terror organizations. What do you say to that?

[Arens] We will do what should be done when it should be done.

[Hecht] The defense minister stated that the Lebanese Army is totally impotent regarding the Hizballah activity in southern Lebanon.

Shamir Has 'Full Confidence' in Ambassador Shoval

TA3103044492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English
0400 GMT 31 Mar 92

[Text] Prime Minister Shamir says he has full confidence in Israel's ambassador to Washington, Zalman Shoval. The prime minister said the ambassador sends full and detailed reports from Washington in the most professional and reliable manner. The prime minister's statement followed sharp criticism of the ambassador by Knesset Member Re'uven Rivlin during yesterday's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee meeting. He indirectly accused Ambassador Shoval of sending unreliable reports to Jerusalem on his contacts with the administration.

Levi Seen Possibly Winning Votes From Likud

TA3003114992 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR
in Hebrew 30 Mar 92 pp 1, 4

[Commentary by Yoram Bar: "Fixed Time for Shamir"]

[Text] By announcing his resignation from the government, Foreign Minister David Levi has given Prime Minister Shamir eight days in which to placate him and concede to his demands. There are six days until Levi submits his letter of resignation at next Sunday's cabinet session, and another 48 hours after that before the resignation takes effect.

That was Levi's intention. He sought to put pressure on Shamir by placing him under a time constraint for achieving a reconciliation, after which anything becomes possible, including Levi's leaving the Likud. Levi is not interested in resigning and his action was only designed to force Shamir to accept his demands.

Some people in the Shamir camp rub their hands with glee at the thought of Levi's possible resignation, but there is no reason for general merriment. Whether Levi resigns or not, the Likud is going to receive a crushing blow at the next elections; but if Levi stays on, Rabin will get some votes from former Likud supporters who have become disenchanted with the party. If Levi leaves the Likud, most of those disappointed votes will go to him. Levi will win his mandates and then may go on to join the Likud in a coalition that may ultimately emerge all the stronger for his resignation. As an independent player, however, Levi also has other options.

Likud officials continuously remind Levi's people that Sharon won only two mandates when he ran by himself, Weizman three, Yig'al Hurvitz only two, and even the great Ben-Gurion won only seven seats with RAFI [List of Israel Workers and Nonpartisans]. The Likud says that is the fate that awaits Levi—to scrape the bottom of the barrel. This is a mistake. All the aforementioned lists ran against the background of political differences with the mother movement. Levi has set out under different conditions, flying the banner of ethnic and popular protest inside the Likud. No one can gauge the true electoral potential of such feelings, considering the fact that 70 percent of the Likud's voters are Sephardic Jews.

It is not known how many of them identify with Levi's protest. Some of them fuse this protest together with disappointment from the Likud's rule. The matter has not been investigated thoroughly until today and we should not be surprised if Levi manages to pull a large number of votes from traditional Likud supporters.

Editorial Says Likud Breakup Remains Possibility

TA3003115692 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT
in Hebrew 30 Mar 92 p 2

[Editorial: "They Did Not Cross the Rubicon (Yet)"]

[Text] Contrary to expectations, David Levi's camp did not cross the Rubicon last night and did not quit the Likud. Levi stopped his camp short of quitting, and the fact that he managed to convince his men not to go through with their firm decision—one they were determined to carry out—shows just how influential he is.

At the same time, the pressure he was under to make a drastic move was very strong, leaving him no option of coming out unscathed without doing something. Levi was forced, therefore, to announce his resignation from his post as foreign minister.

The prime minister now has a few days at his disposal, before the letter of resignation is officially submitted and the resignation "ripens," to put moves to appease Levi into high gear. If he does not make the effort, or if he fails, a split in the Likud is not out of the question, even at this late date—despite the fact that the option of establishing a new sectarian party, a sort of secular SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim], does not thrill even the most aggressive supporter of secession.

The current crisis in the Likud is not only the result of a personal or collective insult, although it appears as such. At the root lies a disagreement on tactics: the question of how to deal with the rift with the United States and the foreign minister's feeling that other ministers are interfering in his field of operation in an attempt to sabotage his policy, as well as a disagreement over socioideological issues.

The Likud today is no longer the party that raised the banner of social progress and sectarian unity, along with the banner of preserving Israel's integrity. Because of increasing pressure from the outside, all efforts and resources are focused on protecting Judaea and Samaria. Activists representing the "underprivileged Israeli," who feel that they brought the Likud to power, today feel abandoned and betrayed.

Secession has been prevented for the time being, with the emphasis firmly placed on "the time being," because this is a situation from which anything might or could evolve—including the end of the 15-year-long era of Likud rule.

Plurality Thinks Bad U.S. Ties To Affect Vote

TA3003103692 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
30 Mar 92 p 2

[Text] The plurality of the Israeli electorate believes that a deterioration in Israeli-U.S. relations will diminish public support for the government. This is one of the findings of a public opinion poll conducted by the Teleseker Research Institute.

Some 42.3 percent of the 506 people interviewed believe that a deterioration in relations will diminish the support, while 24.7 percent believe that such a deterioration will boost the support. Some 20.7 percent of the interviewees think the state of Israeli-U.S. relations will not affect the Israeli public's voting decisions, while 12.3 percent have no stand on the issue.

The poll was conducted last week among adults over the age of 18, representing the nationwide distribution of the Jewish population.

The interviewees were asked the following question: "Relations between the U.S. and the Israeli Governments have recently worsened significantly. In your opinion, how does this situation affect Israeli public support for the government?" The view that a deterioration in relations will reduce (rather than increase) support for the government was found in all the polled groups, including those of Likud supporters (35 versus 29 percent), "floating" votes (38 versus 25 percent), and, in greater number, among Labor supporters (59 versus 18 percent).

The poll was conducted through telephone interviews from Teleseker's interview center in Tel Aviv.

Bank Chairman Urges Halt to Settlements

TA2903175092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English
1700 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Text] The chairman of the Bank Leumi board of directors has called on the government to stop settlement activity in the territories. Moshe Zanbar says without the American loan guarantees Israeli banks will not be able to get long-term credit, which the government needs to absorb immigrants. He was speaking in a symposium at the Treasury.

EC Troika Delegation on Official Visit

Levi on Kohl-Waldheim Meeting

TA2903115892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0905 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi met this morning with the European troika—the representatives of Britain, Portugal, and the Netherlands—to discuss Israel's merger into the EC and the future of the political process. Our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen has just returned from the foreign minister's office, and he reports:

[Begin recording] [Ze'ev] The foreign minister would not say whether or not at the rally of his followers scheduled for this evening he will announce a decision to quit the Likud. He said categorically that he would not answer any questions on the issue.

As for his meeting with the European troika, Minister Levi stated that the discussions concerning Israel's merger into the EC would continue. Israel is very interested in continuing the political process, but objects to Europe's participation in the arms control committee. This is a vital matter for us, Levi said.

[Levi] In the last two years, we have made very good progress with Europe, and we should pursue this. The Europeans think we are keeping them out of the political process, although they are our closest neighbors and whatever happens here affects their security.

That much is true. Israel has very tough and complex problems to deal with, however, and it needs understanding and help. If they show such understanding, Israel will be willing to be more open-minded.

[Ze'ev] I asked the foreign minister about Israel's position concerning the meeting between German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Austrian President Kurt Waldheim, who has been charged with Nazi crimes. According to newspaper reports, the German chancellor angrily said that nobody will tell him whom to meet on German soil, certainly not the World Jewish Congress, which had objected to Germany's unification.

[Levi] We are looking into these utterances. If he said that, including what was reported in the papers today, it is a very serious matter. I do not know whether he was referring to the Jews. More than any other nation, the Germans should be very sensitive when they speak about the Jews. So should the chancellor, definitely when it comes to the people he meets on German soil.

It has not been such a long time yet, and we are very sensitive. We do not only expect the Germans to be understanding, but to hold the memory of the Holocaust sacred.

People say that a different Germany exists today. We want to see an expression of that change, a change that must be sustained and apply to all those whose past is known. That is why we are particularly sensitive and resent such utterances, if the quotes in the papers are correct. [end recording]

On Relations With U.S., Europe

TA2903160592 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1400 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi today again preached moderation in Israeli-U.S. relations. There have been damaging statements, Levi said. He continued: We must allow whoever is dealing with the entire

fabric of relations with the United States to deal with the issue in the proper way. Levi avoided directing his remarks at Minister Ehud Olmert personally.

[Begin Levi recording] We must not act as if we will no longer play the game with America. We must argue—stand firm on our principles—but there are ways of doing that. There are channels. We must not under any circumstances create a feeling that there is no way other than blowing up or severing ties. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Levi made the remarks after a meeting in his office with representatives of the EC troika. The EC representatives' talks in Israel today did not lead to much progress. Israel still firmly opposes an EC delegate's participating in the committee on Middle East arms control in the multilateral talks. Talks on the subject will continue, but the sides are fixed in their positions. Israel will not take part in a group in which it will be isolated, the foreign minister told the Europeans. The Israeli representatives to the talks complained to their European counterparts that the agreement on Israel's participation in the European Free Trade Area was not being honored. Leonardo Matias, the European delegate, wished to make it clear that nothing was promised.

[Begin Matias recording, in English] There was no promise whatsoever to have Israel on the European economic space. We are close to Israel and we would like....[end recording]

[Gutman translates and adds] Matias said Europe would like to expand cooperation with us, and in time perhaps to discuss Israel's incorporation, but that is not a bargaining position.

Do these misunderstandings indicate that Israeli-European relations are again ebbing? Foreign Minister Levi was quick to reassure us.

[Begin Levi recording] We have lots of complaints, but we also have a lot in common and joint interests in overcoming the disputes and differences and strengthening what we formed together. [end recording]

The EC representatives are ending their talks in Israel today.

Europeans Meet Palestinian Leaders

TA2903090992 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
29 Mar 92 p 3

[Report by Mikhel Sela']

[Text] The visiting European "troika" (the three foreign ministers who constitute the EC's Presidency) met yesterday with Palestinian leaders in the territories, headed by Faysal al-Husayni. The meeting was held at the British Consulate in Jerusalem. The two sides exchanged views on the peace process, particularly on the committees established in the multilateral talks.

Hanan 'Ashrawi told DAVAR that both sides agreed that Palestinian participation in the multilateral talks should be expanded to include Palestinians who are not inhabitants of the territories. "It is inconceivable that Israel should unilaterally impose its views on the conference and bar the participation of Palestinians from the diaspora," 'Ashrawi noted.

The Europeans reiterated their official position that Israel should stop settlement and see to Palestinian human rights in the territories. Europe's resentment of Israel's opposition to the EC's participation in the arms control committee was raised in the meeting.

Later, a group of Palestinian economists met the "troika" to discuss preparations for the receipt of the EC's financial aid earmarked for the promotion of projects related to welfare and employment.

The "troika" ministers are scheduled to meet today with leading Defense and Foreign Ministry officials, mainly to discuss the promotion of the peace process. The ministers arrived in Israel on Friday from Egypt as part of a comprehensive tour of the Middle East.

The Palestinian leaders will confer today with Michael Bell of Canada, head of the committee set up in the multilateral talks to discuss the problem of the Palestinian refugees.

EC Role in Refugees Talks Opposed

TA3003110492 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR
in Hebrew 30 Mar 92 p 2

[Report by Moti Bassok]

[Text] Israel objects to the EC's participation in the committee on refugees which is scheduled to convene in Canada at the beginning of May. This became clear

during Foreign Minister David Levi's meeting in Jerusalem with the three deputy foreign ministers from Portugal, Britain, and Holland.

Until now, it was known that Israel opposed the EC's participation in only one working group—the committee on arms control and disarmaments—out of the five set up in January during the multilateral peace talks in Moscow. Yesterday it was learned that Israel also has serious reservations about the EC's taking part in the working group on refugees. On the other hand, Israel agreed to let Europe head the working group on economic issues, as previously agreed upon in Moscow, and participate in the two other committees on the environment and on water. All the working groups are scheduled to convene at the beginning of May. The economic committee will meet in Brussels. Foreign Minister Levi said that "Israel will not agree to participate in a committee in which it feels isolated."

During yesterday's meetings, the EC representatives—the English, Portuguese, and Dutch deputy foreign ministers—attempted to convince Levi and his colleagues to allow the EC to join the working groups on arms control and refugees. It was agreed to continue discussing these issues.

For its part, Israel claimed that Europe had failed to keep the promise it gave Israel in the summer of 1991 in Paris, during Levi's meeting with the EC troika of foreign ministers, according to which Israel would be included in the European Free Trade Area. EC representative Leonardo Matias from Portugal said that Israel had not been promised such status.

After the meeting, Foreign Minister Levi asserted that Israel had many grievances with Europe but also shared a great deal of mutual interests and points of agreement with the EC.

'Official Source' on Direct Dialing to Israel

JN2903201492 Amman Radio Jordan Network
in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Text] An official source at the Telecommunications Corporation stated the following:

Over the past few days, an Israeli telecommunications firm has attempted to open direct dial services with certain Arab states, including Jordan. The firm's officials and certain media in Israel sought to portray the operation as a scientific feat. It is worth noting the advanced state of the technology applied in international telecommunication networks. These technical resources have not been fully tapped, however, and remain governed by agreements and instructions worked out by the International Telecommunication Union, which is a UN-affiliated body.

Under normal conditions and economic grounds, no telecommunications organization can set up direct dial services with every country in the world. Each organization limits itself to setting up direct dial services with a limited number of nations, with which it enters into bilateral agreements to exchange traffic. As for exchanging traffic with other countries, these take place via other nations—for transit—under three-way pacts, where one party has direct dial services with the other two.

The international union's regulations prohibit any party from using the networks of any other party to pass service to a third party, without the knowledge and consent of the other two parties. All telecommunication organizations have usually stuck to their systems and instructions.

Getting around systems and instructions is possible, and does not take skill in telecommunications nor does it involve advanced technology. What happened fits this pattern of bypassing and violating international regulations. The Israeli firm decided to bypass the networks of the organization, with which we are bound by agreements to offer the service of an intermediary—an easy thing to do from a technical angle, since it took place without the knowledge of these networks. Equally easily, we managed to stop the offense. It was enough for us to follow one offending call to determine the intermediary organization, whose inattention the Israeli firm exploited. Subsequently, we told that organization to immediately withhold intermediary service from the said firm.

Relying on the technical ignorance of the general public and attempts to create a mythical image by committing offenses are cheap practices. The Israelis know that far from yielding any successes or gains, such offenses contribute to a lowering of the standards of professional ethics, and prove that Israel's credibility in any field is far from reliable.

European 'Troika' Delegation Arrives in Amman

JN3003134992 Amman Radio Jordan in English
1200 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Excerpt] A European troika delegation arrived in Amman today on a two-day visit to Jordan. During the visit, the delegation will discuss with Jordanian officials Europe's role in the Middle East peace process, particularly with regard to the multilateral negotiations. The visit is part of a tour which the delegation is making to states in the region to give momentum to the Middle East peace process. The delegation visited Israel yesterday. [passage omitted]

Meets Foreign Minister, Crown Prince

JN3003194592 Amman Jordan Television Network
in Arabic 1800 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] Crown Prince Hasan received the European troika delegation visiting Jordan to prepare for meetings by the working group on economic development, arising from the Moscow conference. The talks the European team held with Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir dealt with the peace process and Jordan's role in it. More in the following report by our political affairs correspondent:

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Crown Prince Hasan underlined the need to adopt a comprehensive approach to the Middle East problem, given the linkage between the political and economic challenges facing the states of the region. His highness noted the huge economic burden Jordan has carried since the Palestine problem began, in addition to the hardship it has experienced in the aftermath of the Gulf crisis. He said a just and durable peace should make it possible for the countries of the region to channel their energies toward developing their economies and securing a decent existence for their people. His highness noted that the EC can play a dynamic role in the peace process, given Europe's proximity to the region, and the political and economic interdependence between the Europe and the Middle East.

[Leonardo Matias, in English with Arabic subtitles] We are committed to the peace process. We are committed to the multilaterals, in which we will have a share and a say, and I can assure you that we will also do our homework, and I am convinced that our contribution will be of a constructive and of a positive nature, to make the process a fact.

[Correspondent] Dr. Abu-Jabir made it clear that Jordan wants Europe to have a key and effective role throughout the peace process, in view of the interdependence of Arab and European interests and security. He urged Europe to exert efforts to bring the peace process to fruition. The head of the troika team said that EC members recognize Jordan's constructive policies and stands and its crucial role in promoting regional stability. The EC, he emphasized, is determined to make a real contribution to the peace process, given the direct impact that regional conditions have on Europe. The

delegation then held an expanded meeting attended by a number of officials and experts. It was briefed on Jordanian developments with respect to meetings of the working group on economic development, in the context of Jordan's argument that the political dimensions and the Arab-Israeli conflict should be approached from the standpoint of compliance with UN Security Council Resolution 242. The meetings were attended by the British ambassador and the EC representative in Amman.

[Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah, member of Jordanian delegation to the Washington talks] The troika delegation is here to compare notes on the economic committee meetings in the context of the multilateral conference. It is a program they are carrying around the region. They have been to Egypt and Israel and met with our Palestinian brothers in the occupied territories. Here in Jordan we have been exchanging views and ideas about procedural issues, which are, naturally, important in any conference. We have also talked about items related to the working paper. We also conferred about the size of the participating delegations, which countries will be invited, the time frame and nature of the conference, and whether it will take the shape of a forum, a working team, or a workshop. Our talks also addressed Palestinian participation in this committee. [end recording]

Editorial Welcomes European Efforts

JN3103100792 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
31 Mar 92 pp 1, 24

[Editorial: "The European Role and the Cause of Peace"]

[Text] As part of the European troika delegation's tour of a number of countries in the region, and against the backdrop of a renewed European effort in the regional peace process, a delegation of European ambassadors began a series of meetings yesterday with high-ranking officials, aimed at becoming familiar with the different stances and viewpoints of the parties to the peace process, and extending support to push the peace effort a step forward.

Naturally, we welcome such European efforts—efforts we have been missing since before the start of the peace process in Madrid at the end of last October—especially since we realize the extent of the vital role the EC can play in all stages of the peace process, and the extent of European interest in the course of events in a region that is close to Europe.

Jordan in particular attaches great importance to a more effective European role in handling Middle East political events and developments, thus proceeding from a profound awareness of the close ties between the two groups, mutual Arab-European economic and political cooperation, and the tremendous traditional EC understanding of the Arab viewpoint.

Renewing the European commitment toward peace in the Middle East could form a new driving force serving the peace process, to be added to the other driving force represented by U.S. efforts. This is especially true since we all realize that the political impact the Soviet Union could have had on these peace efforts ended—in one way or another—with the end of the Soviet Union on the eve of the peace process itself.

More importantly, the EC countries—which were represented at the Madrid Conference—will play a more vital role within the multilateral conference. Accordingly, the EC will sponsor the special working team on regional economic development and cooperation in the Middle East in Brussels in May. The team is expected to discuss a great many issues in this field.

It is a great pleasure to know that the Europeans, who oppose Israel's settlement policy and its violations of human rights in the occupied territory, decided to invite the Palestinians from inside and outside the occupied territory to take part in the work of the committee in charge of economic development and cooperation, ignoring the declared Israeli objections in this regard.

We welcome the European troika delegation, considering its current tour a renewal of the missing European role. We fully realize that Europe could play a great role in the efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East. This large international group possesses great potential, valuable expertise, and special capabilities which can be employed to serve the cause of peace, development, and stability in a region that is very close to Europe.

'Royal Decrees' Issued on Legislative Topics

Defense Law Endorsed

JN2803104292 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
28 Mar 92 p 3

[Text] Amman (Petra)—A Royal Decree has been issued, endorsing the Defence Law No. 13 for the year 1992.

The law will be in force by virtue of a Royal Decree which will be issued upon a decision taken by the cabinet. The Royal Decree shall specify the nature of the case demanding that the law be enforced, and the duration of its application, including the date of its implementation.

The law will be put into effect once there is an emergency threatening national security, and public safety throughout the Kingdom or in a specific area.

The law will also be implemented when there is a fear of an imminent outbreak of war, a threat of its outbreak, civil unrest, armed internal conflict or strife general disasters or the outbreak of an epidemic or serious illness.

Under the law, the prime minister will take the necessary measures to ensure public safety and defend the country, without having to abide by the provisions of normal laws in force.

However, the prime minister, who will be responsible for implementing the provisions of this law, can delegate his authorities to anyone whom he may deem fit and qualified. The authorities include the supervision of the implementation of the law nationwide or at a given area.

The prime minister shall be entitled under the new law to impose restrictions on the movement of persons and/or their residence, freedom of meetings, and shall arrange for the arrest of suspect people or those who are found to be dangerous to the national security or public order.

He shall also order the use of power in case such suspects or dangerous persons resist the implementation of orders and shall order the inspection of persons, places and vehicles without having to observe the provisions of any other law.

The prime minister shall also seize moveable and immoveable property, postpone the payment of debt and other due financial obligations, and ban or restrict the importation of goods and their movement from one place to another. He may also specify means of dealing with such goods, fix their prices and seize any land, constructions or water resources, and construct buildings or installations for defence purposes. He can also order the removal of trees or buildings if he deems it fit for implementing the law.

The new law gives the prime minister the right to impose curfews, close shops and reopen them and fix working hours for shops, organise means of transport and communications, and close any road or water canal. He may also ban the traffic on certain roads, censor publications, newspapers, magazines, drawings, cartoons, and all means of expression.

The prime minister can also cancel licences of fire arms, ammunition and weapons, as well as explosive material, and ban the importation of materials used in the production of such items.

Should the prime minister announce the government's intention to seize any property or put it at the disposal of

the government, the owner of such property shall have no right to sell it or dispose of it by any means without obtaining the prior approval of the prime minister, the law says.

Violators of the provisions of the law shall be referred to the courts at first instance which consider their cases, and pass verdicts.

Sentences shall range between imprisonment for up to three years and a JD [Jordanian dinars] 3,000 fine, or both penalties. If the defence order does not specify a penalty, then a violator will either be imprisoned for six months or pay a fine of JD 500, or receive both penalties.

Upon its promulgation in the official gazette, this law shall cancel and supercede the defence law for the year 1935 and all other defence orders issued in accordance with it.

Parliamentary Session Postponed

*JN3003102092 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
30 Mar 92 p 1*

[Excerpt] Amman—A royal decree has been issued postponing the Parliament's ordinary session as of 1 April. The following is the text of the royal decree:

We, Husayn I, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, in accordance with Paragraph 3 of Article 78 of the Constitution, decree the following:

The ordinary session of Parliament shall be postponed as of 1 April 1992. [passage omitted]

Abolition of Martial Law Endorsed

*JN3103103792 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
31 Mar 92 p 1*

[By Ahmad Shakir]

[Excerpt] A royal decree has been issued endorsing the Council of Ministers' recommendation that martial law be abolished within the framework of the government's plans to lay the basis of democracy and to reinforce the parliamentary process.

Martial law came into effect on 5 June 1967 in accordance with Article 125 of the Constitution. [passage omitted]

Hizballah Secretary General Meets Businessman

NC2903083692 *Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic* 0630 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Text] His eminence Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah, Hizballah secretary general, received Lebanese businessman Rafiq al-Hariri yesterday in the presence of Haj 'Abu-Sa'id al-Khansa, Hizballah Political Bureau member. The meeting lasted for over an hour and focused on developments in Beirut's southern suburb, as well as the government situation.

Nasrallah Denies Link With Argentina Bombing

NC3103065992 *Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic* 0615 GMT 31 Mar 92

[Text] Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah denied that Hizballah had anything to do with the bombing of the Israeli Embassy in Argentina. He also declared that Hizballah has no relationship with the Islamic Jihad group, which claimed responsibility for the bombing.

In an interview with an Argentine television station, Nasrallah said: If we had carried out the attack we would not hesitate to admit it.

Further on Expected Release of German Hostages

LD3003155592 *Berlin ADN in German* 1342 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] Bonn (ADN)—The two German hostages in Lebanon will be freed "in several days or weeks," Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz told WELT (Tuesday edition), published in Bonn. Buwayz is one of the four ministers on the government commission on this issue. Another is Agriculture Minister Muhsin Dallul who, as a Shiite, has the closest contacts to the government's interlocutors, according to the newspaper. He said: "It would be dangerous for the hostage takers and detrimental to their aims if they announced a time. Therefore, it is difficult to estimate when the Germans will be free."

According to Dallul and Buwayz, the commission is negotiating with Shaykh Fadlallah, the spiritual leader of the Hizballah, and with the Hizballah leadership; namely, Hasan Nasrallah. They had also negotiated with his predecessor, the late al-Musawi. The Syrian and Iranian Governments—which, according to Buwayz, "have an influence on the Hamadi family"—are also involved.

Buwayz confirmed that "the Hamadi family" is holding Thomas Kemptner and Heinrich Struebig in order to obtain the release of the Hamadi brothers from a German prison, the newspaper writes. Buwayz said the hostage question has "ceased to be a political problem; it is now a purely technical one." As there is "no evidence of his personal involvement, Abdul Hamadi would not be arrested. We do not know exactly who is holding the

hostages. There are 3,000 Hamadis in Lebanon." Buwayz asked the Germans to be "flexible," and to consider that the imprisoned Hamadi brothers had committed their crimes "from a war mentality." After every war there is "understanding for all elements."

Defense Minister on Syrian Support, Government

NC2903112992 *(Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon* 1000 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Text] Defense Minister Michel al-Murr said that Syrian officials have expressed full support for the process of reconciliation and government policy and emphasized the need for unity among Lebanese officials. He said that they are prepared to lend political, administrative, and military support to whatever the government requests in order to implement the al-Ta'if Accord. He expressed the view that in their meeting tomorrow, the president, the speaker, and the prime minister will finalize the list of appointees to senior posts in preparation for its submission to the cabinet. He noted that they will quickly approve the elections bill and study the security plan.

Answering a question, al-Murr said that the issue of a government change or reshuffle, as reported by the media, was not discussed in Damascus. He said that the president is even more of a president than before. No one should imagine that there was any disappointment or that anything was raised and turned down. The president did not raise the issue of government change.

Meets Finnish Counterpart

NC2503220492 *(Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon* 1230 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] Finnish Defense Minister Elisabeth Rehn, who met today with Defense Minister Michel al-Murr, stated that the Middle East problem can only be resolved through negotiations, which must have full support. She added that her government backs all the UN Security Council resolutions, including Resolution 425, and hopes they will be implemented. She noted that there are considerable difficulties in the south.

Receives French Envoy

NC2603085292 *Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic* 1700 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] Defense Minister Michel al-Murr conferred today with French Ambassador Daniel Husson. Ambassador Husson said after the meeting that the situation in the south will remain unstable as long as there is an Israeli presence. He expected certain developments which will not make the Lebanese authorities feel comfortable.

Husson pointed out that the French Government had lifted the ban on spare parts to the Lebanese Army, in accordance with a decision made by French President Francois Mitterrand during Lebanese President al-Hirawi's visit to Paris.

Mansur on 'Complete Understanding' With Syria

NC2803181792 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
1700 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Text] In a radio and television interview today, Information Minister Dr. Albert Mansur presented the government's views on local and regional developments. He asked what the critics have done for the homeland and the Army to help it to establish its authority. He said: These critics are elements of the poor performance.

Regarding relations with Syria, Mansur said: We have decided to reach complete understanding with the Syrians, and there is no going back on this option. Asked if he believes aid to Lebanon was cut because of its solidarity with Syria, Mansur said: Let them cut the aid if they wish; our national interests require understanding with the Syrians.

On the parliamentary elections, Mansur said they will most likely be held around the end of July or early August.

Regarding displaced people, Mansur said this issue has been put on the front burner, and that the displaced could return to their villages during the summer.

Asked about Syrian withdrawal, Mansur said that when this issue is raised by the Americans, the French, or the Israelis, I oppose it. He added: I support raising all issues with the Syrians within the context of cooperation and coordination. He said that this [word indistinct] will happen, and the al-Ta'if Accord will be implemented, through understanding and cooperation with the Syrians within the required timeframe.

Attacks on Israeli, Militia Patrols Reported

NC3103075492 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed
in Arabic 0630 GMT 31 Mar 92

[Excerpts] According to security reports from the south, a state of stringent alert prevails in the areas adjacent to the occupied strip, out of fear that the enemy may carry out aggression in these areas. [passage omitted]

The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] affirmed that it killed or wounded several Zionist soldiers traveling inside two personnel carriers which were destroyed by one of its units in the south. A DFLP statement said that at 1300 yesterday, between al-Dabshah and (al-Tuhrah) in the central sector, the Martyr 'Abbas al-Musawi Group attacked a Israeli mechanized patrol of 15 soldiers with machine guns. The statement said the group killed or wounded many soldiers and returned safely to base. [passage omitted]

AFP said an Agent Lahd army member was seriously wounded yesterday morning when a 40-kg TNT charge exploded under a Lahd patrol in the occupied strip. The agent's radio admitted the attack, and claimed that only one armored vehicle received minor damage.

UNIFIL Vehicle Attacked; Two Injured

NC3103103992 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain
in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 31 Mar 92

[Text] Timor Goksel, official spokesman of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), stated that five UNIFIL officers miraculously escaped death last night when gunmen opened fire on the Nepalese contingent commander's car. The commander recently arrived in southern Lebanon. Goksel said two officers were slightly injured by shattered glass.

Commentary Stresses Support for Lebanese Accord
JN2503170392 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1235 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Sisterly Lebanon has the right to be proud of its accomplishments along the path of national reconciliation and of what it has reconstructed and entrenched within the framework of national unity. It has the right, now that the civil war has ended. The Lebanese have closed ranks under one banner, and legitimate institutions have emerged to revive a state in which law prevails without championing one faction over another or being biased toward a voice or resolution that does not advocate Lebanon's interests, security, and stability.

As the situation today in Lebanon has become a factor of reassurance and confidence in the hearts of the Lebanese, it continues to be a factor of reassurance for us in Syria, as well as a source of satisfaction, giving us confidence in the future of Lebanon and more peace of mind, seeing that the fraternal people there have bypassed the ordeal and stood with determination and bravery to build the homeland with their well-known sympathy, solidarity, and forbearance. In the past, while we were carrying out our duty toward Lebanon, we were fully aware that estrangement, disputes, and internecine fighting are alien to the Lebanese and the Arabs in general. We were fully aware that reconciliation, solidarity, and strong kinship relations are the basis, regardless of enemy intrigues and plots against the Arab fate. We were also fully aware that the wager on the future is ours, regardless of the types of difficulties.

Hence, as our role in sisterly Lebanon was fulfilling the needs of Lebanon and its sons, it was also harmonious with our position, our vision of the future, and with the responsibilities we shouldered—at our own choice—toward the entire pan-Arab surrounding. We continued and are continuing this role today as much as Lebanon needs it to activate the cycle of security and prosperity to reach its utmost aspirations as soon as possible.

In light of this, the intensive meetings in Damascus between President Hafiz al-Asad and the Syrian leadership on the one hand, and President Ilyas al-Hirawi and the Lebanese leadership on the other, are a continuation of a course that meets the ambitions of the Syrians and Lebanese within the framework of the Fraternity and Cooperation Accord. It is an expression of our joint belief that consolidating the internal Lebanese situation is a guarantee that cannot be ignored and the responsibility of all Lebanese in all their positions and trends.

Lebanon, which converged on the basis of the national accord, is called upon to continue the process of recovery within the framework of its legitimate institutions, which endeavor to build the new Lebanon on the basis of reconciliation and construction. Lebanon's recovery

requires further vigilance and awareness from all Lebanese to face an enemy who does not like to see that Lebanon is becoming strong, as well as to face the momentous events which the world is witnessing. We should be prepared for these events and estimate the possibilities with an accuracy that does not tolerate any mistakes.

Under the wise leadership of President al-Asad, Syria has long pledged to respond to any assistance required by the Lebanese. Syria is continuing this pledge; nothing will prevent Syria from keeping this pledge because Syrian-Lebanese interests are at the top of our priorities. We also believe that carrying out our pan-Arab duty is a sacred mission from which we cannot deviate under any circumstances.

Newspapers Comment on Lebanon, Israel, Libya
JN2503081992 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0530 GMT 25 Mar 92

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-BA'TH highlights the success Syria has achieved, under the historic leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, in ending the civil war in Lebanon.

Under the headline "Syria To Remain Lebanon's Basic Support," AL-BA'TH says: There is no doubt that this success was twofold: It protected Lebanon from all dangers surrounding it, and it safeguarded Arab existence and our nation's higher interests when it thwarted the schemes of the Zionist enemy aimed at tearing the homeland apart.

AL-BA'TH asserts that since the ending of the anomalous situation in Lebanon, the process of national accord has made headway to restore unity among the sons of the one homeland. AL-BA'TH also notes the obstacles overcome during the accord process, saying that this was accompanied by major steps to establish security and stability, in addition to the deployment of the Army in most of Lebanon.

Concluding its comment, AL-BA'TH asserts that Syria's continued support has been met with loyalty from the fraternal country—the people, political leaders, and social and religious figures of various affiliations. This loyalty has materialized in the constant coordination between Damascus and Beirut through the continuous meetings between leader al-Asad and President al-Hirawi.

TISHRIN today discusses the aggressiveness of enemy Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, saying: Shamir has not concealed his intention to bring in millions of Jews from various parts of the world, especially from the former Soviet Union.

Given that the land of Palestine is small and cannot accommodate this large number of settlers, the paper says, it seems obvious that the rulers of Israel will not

refrain from expelling all the Palestinian people, using all methods of terrorism and killing. It also seems obvious that their schemes include the countries of the region as well.

TISHRIN goes on to say: The rulers of Israel are thus responding to the U.S. peace initiative, global peace calls, and the Arabs' sincere willingness to achieve a just, comprehensive settlement, with more aggressive acts and schemes.

TISHRIN adds: The Israeli challenge to international legitimacy and its resolutions is unequalled. No two observers would differ over the fact that Israel's aggressive and expansionist acts would not have taken this serious dimension had the Security Council confronted Israel from the very beginning. Naturally, the Security Council's evading its real responsibilities would make Shamir more intransigent, step up the aggressive approach, and create more disappointment and frustration in the Middle East and worldwide, the paper concludes.

Commenting on the same issue, AL-THAWRAH says: Israeli officials do not stop at rejecting and not recognizing UN resolutions but also deny the basis and foundation of these resolutions, especially the land-for-peace principle. They also devote all their activities

to changing the situation in the occupied Arab territories—particularly demographically—by expanding settlement activity by new Zionist immigrants, to create a fait accompli that would later affect any peace process in the Middle East.

AL-THAWRAH goes on to say: In spite of what Israel is doing, the international community has done nothing so far to implement its resolutions, with which the rulers of Tel Aviv refuse to comply. The rulers of Tel Aviv, moreover, work hard to violate these resolutions, at a time when some influential parties in the international organization are taking the required steps at the Security Council to impose sanctions and a blockade on fraternal Libya, based on a false accusation called terrorism, although the Libyan Jamahiriya has shown readiness, since these parties raised the issue, to cooperate with any international endeavor to stem terrorism. Libya is still stressing this, along with the Arab countries which, on 23 March, asked the Security Council to resolve the U.S.-British-French dispute with Libya through negotiation, mediation, and adjudication, in accordance with the UN Charter and principles of international law.

This confirms that the Arabs have always trusted this international organization as a basic frame of reference to find solutions to any international dispute or quarrel. Israel, on the other hand, refuses. How long will this continue?

India

Madhavsingh Solanki Resigns Over Bofors Issue

BK3103074292 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 0730 GMT 31 Mar 92

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr. Madhavsingh Solanki, has resigned. This was announced in the Lok Sabha today by the parliamentary affairs minister, Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad, in the midst of heated exchanges on the Bofors issue. Mr. Azad said Mr. Solanki met the prime minister and handed over his resignation.

Reasons for Resignation Given

BK3103094492 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 0830 GMT 31 Mar 92

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr. Madhavsingh Solanki, has resigned. The parliamentary affairs minister, Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad, informed this in the Lok Sabha today amidst uproar over the issue of handing over of a letter from a lawyer to Swiss authorities related to Bofors issue. Mr. Azad said Mr. Solanki has already met the prime minister and handed over his resignation letter.

The issue rocked the house again today, and a vehement opposition insisted that the motion of censure against the external affairs minister should be admitted. The notice of the motion was given by Mr. George Fernandes, Janata Dal. The opposition also demanded that a copy of the letter be tabled in the house for any meaningful discussion on the Bofors issue tomorrow. They also wanted that the identity of the lawyer or the person who introduced him to Mr. Madhavsingh Solanki be disclosed. Mr. Jaswant Singh, BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], who raised the issue during the zero hour also wanted that the government must dissociate itself from the letter handed over by the external affairs minister.

Amidst heated exchanges between the treasury benches and the opposition, the speaker Mr. Shivraj Patil, observed that he cannot give any ruling on the notice for the censure of the external affairs minister without going through all aspects of it. He said he will examine it and give his ruling later. Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad said since the house is going to discuss the Bofors issue tomorrow, these aspects can also be taken up. This however did not satisfy the opposition members. The leader of the opposition, Mr. L.K. Advani, and others said the collective responsibility of the council of ministers has been violated. They said the minister was either naive or made a scapegoat. They said it is not clear from Mr. Azad's statement what mends the government is going to make. Mr. Advani pressed for a vote on the motion to decide whether it should be taken up by the house for an immediate discussion. Ruling party members however asserted that opposition charge is politically motivated and they want to malign the government and create confusion. They also said there is an attempt to destabilize the country.

The Rajya Sabha was thrown into turmoil today over the external affairs minister, Mr. Madhavsingh Solanki's resignation as the opposition members demanded a statement by the prime minister on the Bofors issue. Earlier, the home minister informed the house that Mr. Solanki has tendered his resignation. The opposition members charged the government that it is trying to suppress the facts on the issue.

1,000 Kashmiris Stage Independence Rally

BK3003133692 Hong Kong AFP in English 1318 GMT
30 Mar 92

[Text] Srinagar, India, March 30 (AFP)—Some 1,000 Muslims staged a pro-Kashmir independence rally here Monday [30 March], burning the governor of Pakistan-controlled Kashmir in effigy for not allowing a storming of the Indian zone.

The rally was staged as Indian troops along the ceasefire line dividing the Muslim-dominated mountain region stayed on maximum alert and enforced a curfew in three tense border towns. No attempt to storm the border was reported.

"We want freedom, we will die for freedom," chanted the demonstrators, who gathered at the Ali Kadal neighbourhood in downtown Srinagar on a call from Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) guerrilla leader Javed Ahmad Mir. "Death to Sardar Abdul Qayyum," they shouted as they set alight an effigy of the premier of Pakistan-controlled Kashmir, whose administration cracked down on JKLF cadres to scuttle their plans to storm the Line of Control Monday.

Indian paramilitary troopers in the vicinity stayed inside their bunkers and made no effort to disperse the demonstrators, who assembled in cold, murky weather to wave pro-independence banners and hear Mir. Mir delivered a 15-minute speech, lashing out at both Pakistan and India, who both claim Kashmir and hold parts of the state over which they have fought two wars since their independence from Britain in 1947.

The 28-year-old guerrilla leader said the people of Kashmir had to fight for independence on their own and could not depend on outside help to boost their campaign. The JKLF has announced it was postponing plans to take activists to the Line of Control, or ceasefire line, on Monday to receive marchers from Pakistan, where police arrested the group's leader, Amanullah Khan, last week. The JKLF is the oldest of several Muslim militant groups fighting for secession in the Indian part of Kashmir, but most of them favour union with Pakistan rather than independence.

An attempt by Pakistan-based JKLF supporters to storm the Line of Control and enter India last month was thwarted by Pakistani forces, who opened fire and killed 16 people by unofficial count.

Meanwhile, Indian authorities clamped a curfew in the towns of Sopore, Anantnag and Baramulla as a precaution and tightened security in Srinagar, the urban hub of the secessionist campaign. B.S. Bedi, director of the Kashmir police, told AFP that no attempt had been made to breach the border on either side until Monday evening.

Any violation of the ceasefire line would meet with a "heavy hand," Bedi said, adding that extensive security arrangements had been made all along the border and in the Kashmir Valley. Muslim militants and security forces exchanged intermittent gunfire in the valley, but no casualties were reported. Six bullet-riddled bodies were found in the District of Budgam, but the victims were not identified.

The Ikhwan-ul-Muslimeen, another militant group, withdrew an indefinite general strike which entered the fourth day Monday. The strike had been called to protest the alleged death in police custody of a leading militant who the police said escaped arrest. The Muslimeen said it was cancelling the protest because of the Moslem holy month of Ramadan.

No Kashmir Border Violation; Leaders Released

*BK3003161092 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 1530 GMT 30 Mar 92*

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir Government has revoked the detention orders of five prominent political leaders of the state with immediate effect. These leaders are: Syed Ali Shah Gilani, ex-MLA [member of the Legislative Assembly]; Mr. Abdul Ghani Lone, ex-MLA; Maulvi Abbas Ansari; Professor Abdul Ghani; and Qazi Nisar Ahmed.

The All India Radio Jammu correspondent says that while no reasons have been officially given for revoking the detention of these leaders, the development is being viewed by observers as a step toward restoring the political process in the state.

Meanwhile, there is no report so far today of any violation of the Line of Control by the self-styled JKLF [Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front] activists. An official spokesman in Jammu said no activity could be seen even on the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir side of the Line of Control. The security forces are maintaining a strict vigil. In the Kashmir Valley also, there was no incident. Reports from Muzaffarabad, the capital of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, say about 500 JKLF activists were arrested by the security forces today.

[Hong Kong AFP in English at 1424 GMT on 30 March reports the following: "Five Kashmiri militants made it across the border into Indian-held Kashmir Monday afternoon, while police arrested march leader Raja Muzaffar, militant sources said. The symbolic crossing and subsequent arrest of Muzaffar, acting chairman of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF),

apparently ends its adventure at the volatile border between the hostile neighbours India and Pakistan, observers said."]

Commentary Views Pakistan Policy on Kashmir, Ties

*BK3003124492 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas
Service in English 1010 GMT 30 Mar 92*

[Commentary by Harbhajan Singh, editor of OBSERVER and member of the Press Council of India]

[Text] With the arrest of so-called JKLF [Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front] Chairman Amanullah Khan in Rawalpindi and several other top extremists of the militant outfit having gone underground in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, the so-called march by the JKLF to cross the Line of Actual Control may not appear. There can at best be some stray incidents and the alert Indian forces have the capacity and the will to silence mischief-mongers who may attempt the march to Line of Actual Control.

Javed Ahmed Mir, a self-styled commander in chief, and another Pakistan-trained extremist, Raja Muzaffar Khan—so-called JKLF deputy chairman in Pakistan, may brag of their resolve. But people are far from convinced as the Indian and Pakistani authorities are more determined than in February to stop the march. In fact, Pakistani authorities have arrested Amanullah Khan to win international accolades as well as to prevent the use of force against the marchers at the last minute to avoid killings of February 11 and 12.

Reports from Islamabad also say that Islamabad government fears that the JKLF line of total independence may even provide the room for the UN to revise its original resolution confined to Kashmir's accession to India or Pakistan. The statement of the district superintendent of police of Mirpur District, Sardar Fahim Ahmed Khan, that the local security authorities have seized huge quantities of arms and ammunition and narcotics during searches all over the district is equally significant. This also shows that for the first time Pakistan's attempt to use the so-called JKLF like other Pakistan-linked terrorist outfits in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir has backfired. The onus of stopping JKLF on the Line of Actual Control came on the Government of Pakistan, rather than India, as had been the case in the past.

Looking a little more dispassionately, the Kashmir issue is not the cause of deteriorating India-Pakistan ties. A solution of the Kashmir problem will by no means signify the end of things. Let us make no mistake about it. For the basic problem, so far as Pakistan's rulers are concerned, is not Kashmir. The basic problem is India. The fundamental strategy of Pakistan's rulers is guided by the calculations that popular attention can be diverted from political and economic problems at home and sustained there only by a bogey abroad, and that bogey is India. In fact, there can be no solution to

Kashmir, let alone the larger problems plaguing the relationship between the two countries, unless Pakistan has a stable government.

The uncertain fate of its fledgling democracy, massive discontent in Sindh and to a lesser extent in Balochistan and the North-West Frontier Province, sectarian tensions, widening class disparities, the havoc brought by the [word indistinct] aftermath of the Afghan adventure, etc., are contributing to exacerbating the difficulties that Pakistani leadership experienced as they endeavor to forge a national identity on the basis of Islam and to build a strong modern and dynamic nation state. The situation in Pakistan is further compounded by the inherent weaknesses of the power structure which has been in hands of preeminently Punjabi groups and lobbies vying for dominance, the armed forces, the notorious ISI [Inter Services Intelligence] which tends to function as a state within the state, feudal lords, wealthy industrialists, mullahs, and religious parties.

Regardless of linguistic and cultural links which bind the people of both India and Pakistan, any attempt by India to seek a rapprochement with Pakistan on the basis of these links raises its hackles. On the lapse of British paramountcy, the rulers of princely states had the option for either India or Pakistan. They had no third option of retaining independent status. The circumstances in which the maharaja of Kashmir acceded to India are too well-known, and also the facts of first India-Pakistan war of 1947-48.

Suffice it to say that the present dispute over Kashmir is not the unfinished agenda of partition. Under the Simla Agreement of July 1972, the two countries agreed that in Jammu and Kashmir, the Line of Actual Control resulting from the cease-fire of December 1971 shall be respected by both sides. Neither side shall seek to alter it unilaterally irrespective of mutual differences and legal interpretation. They also agreed that both sides further undertake to refrain from the threat of the use of force in violation of this line. By taking advantage of India's internal unrest, Pakistan has continued a proxy war by funding, arming, training, and infiltrating militants like so-called JKLF. An objective military assessment of the situation will show that the state of insurgency may last, but it is not going to succeed in getting the valley to secede.

Governor Says Militancy on Decline in Kashmir

*BK2903100892 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 0730 GMT 29 Mar 92*

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir governor, Mr. Girish Saxena, says militancy is on the decline in the state because of the increased pressure by security forces. The governor told PTI [PRESS TRUST OF INDIA] in Jammu that infiltration from across the border is also being checked. He said as the militants are losing ground, they are resorting to frequent kidnappings. Attempts are also being made to whip up passions by exploiting religious sentiment and propaganda about

violation of human rights. The governor said the administration is taking steps to remove the feeling of alienation and resentment among the people. It is also trying to ensure that security forces act with restraint and no innocent person is hurt in security operations.

The former governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Mr. Jag Mohan, has called for stringent measures to tackle militants in the state. He was speaking to newsmen in Nagpur yesterday. Mr. Jag Mohan hoped that the Narasimha Rao government will be able to find a solution to the Kashmir problem.

Israeli Trade, Industrial Agreement Signed

*BK3103095892 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network
in English 1600 GMT 30 Mar 92*

[Text] The Confederation of Indian Industry today signed a memorandum of understanding [MOU] with the Israel Export Institute to promote trade and industrial cooperation between the two countries. The former confederation chief, Dr. Gurpreet Singh, and the president of the Israel Export Institute, Mr. David Litvak, signed the document. The MOU envisages exchange of professionals, information on products and industrial processes and promotion of trade fairs. The papers were signed at the workshop on India-Israel trade and industrial cooperation.

Addressing the workshop, Mr. J.N. Dixit, said the two countries are embarking on a new and significant chapter in trade and economic cooperation. He said the scope for cooperation has tremendously increased in the new atmosphere created by India's economic policies.

Wolasi Jerga Chairman Meets Indian President

*LD2803090792 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network
in Pashto 1530 GMT 25 Mar 92*

[Text] Dr. Khalil Ahmad Abawi, president of the Wolasi Jerga of the Republic of Afghanistan, who heads a parliamentary delegation, arrived on 23 March in New Delhi at the invitation of India's parliament. Yesterday afternoon he met Indian President Ramaswamy Venkataraman in the presidential palace. During the meeting which was also attended by Ahmad Sarwar, Afghanistan's ambassador and representative extraordinary in New Delhi, Dr. Khalil Ahmad Abawi first conveyed good wishes and the regards of Afghan President Najibullah to the Indian president and expressed gratitude for meeting him.

In response India's president presented his good wishes to the president of Afghanistan. He expressed pleasure at the visit of Afghanistan's parliamentary delegation and its meeting with parliamentary personalities of India. He expressed support once again for the indefatigable efforts of the esteemed president of Afghanistan to restore peace in the ancient country of the Afghans.

Later Dr. Khalil Ahmad Abawi furnished India's president with information about the recent course toward

peace and the good offices of the United Nations in this respect. The Indian president repeated with clarity and sincerity his support for the cessation of the long-standing war in Afghanistan. He promised the selfless assistance of India for the reconstruction of Afghanistan.

The Afghan delegation laid a wreath at the tomb of Mahatma Gandhi. Dr. Khalil Abawi met with President of Lok Sabha Sh. Patel and conducted talks with him about the consolidation and expansion of parliamentary relations between the parliaments of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Republic of India.

The delegation paid a visit to the library of India's parliament and took part in a session of the Senate of India. The Afghan delegation participated in a meeting of a number of members of parliament of India. In the meeting, which was attended by deputy head of the parliament of India as well, Prof. Shah Ali Akbar Shahrastani delivered a speech on the history of the friendship between the peoples of the two countries.

Minister Discusses Ayodhya Site Dispute, LTTE

*BK2803114892 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 0830 GMT 28 Mar 92*

[Text] The home minister has said that a team of parliament members will visit Ayodhya within a week's time. Talking to reporters at Rashtrapati Bhavan [president house] after the investiture ceremony, Mr. S.B. Chavan said that the composition of the team is being finalized. All political parties have been requested to nominate their representatives. The prime minister, who was also present, said the center received yesterday an invitation from the Uttar Pradesh [UP] chief minister for the visit. Mr. Narasimha Rao did not agree with the view that the recent developments in Ayodhya were a setback to his consensus approach.

Commenting on Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee's suggestion that the home minister should himself visit Ayodhya, Mr. Chavan said this might give scope for attributing motives. It is better that an independent body of observers handle the situation. The home minister said that the government cannot force anyone to join the all-party team. But, at the same time, it does not want any party to feel isolated. He said since both the NIC [National Integration Council] standing committee and all-party team are to go to Ayodhya, the visit may take place in two phases.

On the BJP's [Bharatiya Janata Party's] apprehension that Article 356 [of the Constitution providing imposition of presidential rule] will be invoked in UP, Mr. Chavan asked why should they be afraid if they have not done anything.

Asked about [UP chief minister] Mr. Kalyan Singh's contention that the center cannot take away the land around the disputed site in Ayodhya, the home minister said it is a legal issue.

Mr. Chavan said the cabinet committee on political affairs is likely to take a decision on banning the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] within a week. He also said that the center would like to strengthen the security arrangements for the Tamil Nadu chief minister, Ms. Jayalalitha, as she needs more protection in the face of threats to her life from the LTTE.

On the dissolution of the Nagaland Assembly, the home minister said the governor seems to have acted on the advice of the chief minister. He however remarked that the convention has been that the center is consulted before such a step.

Punjab Political Accord May Be Announced in April

*BK2903131692 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 1230 GMT 29 Mar 92*

[Text] The home minister says talks are on with the concerned states on a political package for Punjab. Mr. S.B. Chavan said he already has had talks with two chief ministers in this regard. Speaking to newsmen at the Police Training College at Phillaur near Ludhiana today, he did not rule out the possibility of announcement of the package before the Baisakhi [Hindu-Sikh new year] day [in April]. Mr. Chavan asserted that the Rajiv-Longowal accord is quite relevant. He said those responsible for the November 1984 riots in Delhi are being charge-sheeted. In reply to a question, the home minister said the government is ready to have talks with the Akalis and the misguided youth within the framework of the constitution. Earlier, Mr. Chavan presented colors to the Punjab police at the inauguration function of the centenary celebrations of Police Training College, Phillaur. Speaking on the occasion, the Punjab director general of police, Mr. K.P.S. Gill, said the state police will continue its fight against the militants unabated.

Bomb Explodes in Mosque in Uttar Pradesh

*BK3103091692 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 0830 GMT 31 Mar 92*

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh [UP], a bomb exploded this morning in a mosque at Faizabad. Police say no one was injured in the blast. The place where the explosion occurred was under renovation for over one year. Security measures have been taken in the town to prevent any untoward incident.

The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, has said that the center is in touch with the UP government about the reported bomb blast. He said that the UP chief minister has assured him that a report on the incident will be sent by this evening to the center. Raising the issue in the Rajya Sabha during zero hour today, Dr. Subramaniam Swamy of the Janata Party demanded a statement on the issue from the home minister.

Minister Claims Cover-Up in Rajiv Gandhi Murder

BK3003144292 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 1230 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] The Tamil Nadu chief minister, Ms. Jayalalitha, has said some persons in high positions are trying to cover up the involvement of some important personalities in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case. Replying to a point of order in the state assembly, she said that she has taken up the matter with the union home minister and the CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation].

Cell Formed To Check Punjab Militant Activities

BK2803091692 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 0245 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Text] The West Bengal chief minister, Mr. Jyoti Basu, has said that a special cell to curb the activities of Punjab militants in the state has been set up. Mr. Basu told the assembly yesterday that all districts have been alerted to keep a special vigil on the suspected ULFA [United Liberation Front of Assam] elements in West Bengal. He said the state government is in touch with the concerned states to verify news pertaining to the extremists hiding in West Bengal.

Commentary Says Multinationals To Benefit Economy

BK2703113292 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas
Service in English 1010 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Journalist R.C. Uma commentary]

[Text] One of the major objectives of the radical liberalization of our economic policy initiated in July last is to stimulate foreign direct investment. Rightly so, as this can be not only instrumental in accelerating growth, modernization, as well as technology upgradation in our industrial sector, but also benefit the economy in various other ways. They can significantly augment investable resources and that too in foreign exchange without multiplying the external debt burden, facilitating technology transfer on (government) basis, and induction of modern marketing and management techniques. Yet another benefit they can bestow is accelerated expansion in exports, which is one of the paramount tasks before us.

The international markets indisputably are dominated by transnationals. Of late, some of such enterprises already having presence in India have markedly stepped up their export endeavors in respect of their products as well as other Indian goods. So is the case with some of our giant industrial enterprises which have collaboration arrangements with multinationals. They are increasingly becoming a useful source of supply to their collaborators abroad.

The defense put forth by the commerce minister, Mr. P. Chidambaram, at Ahmedabad a couple of days ago for the clearance by the union government of a fairly large number of proposals of multinationals thus is in no way unwarranted. As many as 893 projects envisaging an

aggregate investment of 11,415 million rupees had been cleared till a few days ago, a number of them from multinationals, such as General Motors, IBM, Ford, Coca Cola, Dupont, Suzuki, Siemens, Erickson, Motorola, AT&T, and (?BMW). Yet another lot of foreign investment proposals to the tune of 10,000 million rupees would have been approved by this month end if a statement by the union minister of state for finance, Mr. Rameshwar Thakur, at a seminar in New Delhi early this month is any indication. In conformity with the new industrial policy, an overwhelming proportion of the proposals cleared are in such high priority areas as manufacture of chemicals, transportation equipment and automobiles, electrical equipment, industrial machinery, commercial and office equipment, and food processing industries.

Fears about multinationals dominating the Indian industrial scene are hardly warranted for various obvious reasons. These include the maturity of our entrepreneurs and the subcontinental dimensions of our economy. The new industrial policy has removed the irritants to the foreign investors in India, the foremost concessions to them being allowing majority participation in their ventures and modifications of the MRTP [monopoly and restrictive trade practice] and FERA [Foreign Exchange Regulations Act] legislations.

This has not gone down well with the critics of the new policy, who, according to Dr. Manmohan Singh, perhaps continue to believe as if nothing has changed since the East India Company days. It is true that direct employment potential of sophisticated high technology and large industrial projects can be only limited, primarily because of the very high degree of automation. But the potential for creating employment in the tertiary sector, including trade, is substantial, if not phenomenal.

It also needs to be appreciated that some of the new technologies, which can transform future agricultural development also, by and large are the preserve of multinationals. Their entry into India can open up new employment opportunities to not small an extent in the agrarian sector also.

Similar should be the benefit accruing from a rapid development of processed food industries. The development of the small-scale sector need not be thwarted by foreign industrial giants' entry. Their sphere of activity is reserved for them.

The foreign investment policy currently being allowed ensures to a large extent that there should be a net accrual to foreign exchange resources as a sequel to the operations of foreign investors. Automatic approval for majority foreign participation is being granted in the specified 34 high priority industries on the condition that the equity shares are sufficient to finance the import of capital goods at the stage of investment. The dividends to be paid also have to be balanced by export earnings over a period of time.

The change effected in the role of foreign direct investments from the supplemental nature, and on selective basis hitherto, to an active one in our industrialization process at the present juncture need not be assailed on fallacious misgivings. We must move in consonance with the emerging global trends.

Iran

Supreme National Security Council Views Issues

LD2803160892 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Text] The first Supreme National Security Council session of the year began on 21 March and was chaired by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and attended by members, political advisers, and high-ranking military commanders. The council reviewed recent developments in Afghanistan and received a Foreign Ministry report on mediation between the Republics of Azerbaijan and Armenia, expressing satisfaction at the establishment of a cease-fire. The Supreme National Security Council expressed the hope that the Islamic Republic of Iran's efforts will culminate in the establishment of lasting peace and stability in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Va'ez Reports on Karabakh

LD2903160992 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Text] The 13-point peace proposal of the Islamic Republic of Iran will be discussed in the fourth round of peace talks aimed at solving the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, which is due to start in Baku tomorrow. Mr. Va'ez, European-American affairs deputy at the Foreign Ministry, who returned to Tehran last night in order to submit a report to the Supreme National Security Council on the activities of Iran's peace mission, was interviewed by domestic and foreign correspondents today. He said: During these talks, which will be attended by delegations from Azerbaijan, Armenia, Russia, Iran, and representatives of Nagorno-Karabakh, the issue of a permanent cease-fire, the exchange of prisoners, and the deployment of peacekeeping forces will be discussed. If it is a success, it could lead to a summit.

On cooperation between the CSCE and the Russian Government in the peace talks, Mr. Va'ez said: Iran will support all efforts toward restoration of peace in the region and finding a solution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. He added: The support of the warring sides and the establishment of a cease-fire are a significant step toward solving the Azerbaijan-Armenia conflict. This has created much optimism.

Regarding the deployment of peacekeeping forces in the region, he said: We would prefer that the peacekeeping forces have some connection with the United Nations and enjoy the support of this organization.

French Official on Karabakh

LD2903061892 Tehran IRNA in English 0520 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Text] Tehran, March 29, IRNA—French Foreign Ministry's Director General for North Africa and Middle East Pierre la France arrived here Saturday night [28 March] on a 2-day visit. La France is to convey message of Foreign Minister Roland Dumas to his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati and discuss Tehran-Paris relations and Iran's peace initiative to end hostility between Azerbaijan and Armenia over Karabakh.

An Iranian delegation led by Deputy Foreign Minister for Euro-America Mahmud Va'ez is currently shuttling between the capital cities of the two neighbouring republics to settle their dispute over Karabakh. Following a tripartite meeting of Azerbaijani, Armenian and Iranian officials in Tehran earlier this month, a week-long cease-fire went into effect in Karabakh last Friday. It was later extended for another two weeks upon the consent of the two warring republics.

France 'Willing To Exchange Views'

LD2903172692 Tehran IRNA in English 1517 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Text] Tehran, March 29, IRNA—The French Government is willing to exchange views with Iran regarding its efforts to settle the Karabakh issue, French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas has said in a message to his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

Dumas' message was submitted to Deputy Foreign Minister for Euro-American Affairs Mahmud Va'ez by French Foreign Ministry director general for North Africa-Middle East, Pierre la France, here today. The message underlines the need for exchange of views between Iran and France in order to initiate measures to help reduce the tension in the Caucasus.

Hailing the Iranian peace initiative to end the Karabakh conflict, La France said Paris fully understands Tehran's positions and hopes that Iranian efforts would result in a "real tranquility" in the region and prevent further bloodshed and massacre. "We believe this problem will be solved through the exchange of opinions, and we welcome cooperation from international organizations or the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE)," Va'ez replied.

Va'ez, whose shuttling between the capitals of the two warring republics has resulted in a cease-fire, said humanitarian goodwill as well as the request of the two republics of Azerbaijan and Armenia are the basis of the Iranian mediation moves. Four cease-fire monitoring committees have been set up in Yerevan, Baku, Khan-kandi, and Agdam which are in permanent contacts with the Iranian officials.

Economic sanctions have been lifted to a large extent, the cease-fire period has been extended, and the situation of energy and fuel has improved in the region thanks to the efforts made by Iran.

La France arrived here Saturday night for a two-day visit.

Meetings Discuss Resolution of Afghan Conflict

UN Envoy Briefs Velayati

LD2903161392 Tehran IRNA in English 1501 GMT
29 Mar 92

[Text] Tehran, March 29, IRNA—The United Nations secretary general's special envoy for Afghan affairs, Benon Sevan, today briefed Iran's Minister of Foreign Affairs 'Ali Akbar Velayati on the results of his talks with Afghan mujahedin leaders. Sevan said that people inside Afghanistan were suffering from acute food shortages, and appealed to Iran to help overcome the difficulties in transporting UN relief supplies to that country.

Velayati expressed Iran's readiness to help international bodies deliver their relief consignments to people inside Afghanistan and said: "As usual Iran is ready to extend its humanitarian aids to the Muslim people of Afghanistan." He also reiterated Iran's support for UN peace efforts to settle the Afghan issue and said: "We are ready to cooperate with you in this regard."

Sevan arrived here yesterday from Pakistan. He earlier visited Kabul, and during his three-day stay in Tehran would also meet Iran-based Afghan mujahedin leaders.

Pakistan's Kanjoo Arrives for Talks

LD3003105892 Tehran IRNA in English 0947 GMT
30 Mar 92

[Text] Tehran, March 30, IRNA—Pakistani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo arrived here Monday [30 March] for talks on matters of mutual interest, the Afghan issue in particular.

He told reporters upon arrival that Islamabad favours settlement of Jammu and Kashmir issue within the framework of the United Nations resolutions.

Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati who welcomed Kanjoo at the airport said that a tripartite meeting is to be held with participation of Iran, Pakistan and special envoy of the U.N. secretary general for Afghanistan Benon Sevan today.

The talks will center on the Afghan issue and the recent developments in Afghanistan, Velayati said. Iran and Pakistan as the two countries which have been on the side of the Afghan people since the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, cannot remain indifferent towards the developments in that country, said the Iranian foreign minister.

On the U.N. five-point plan for Afghanistan, Velayati said the U.N. efforts towards establishment of peace in Afghanistan are welcomed by Iran as far as they guarantee interests of the Afghan people. "Our evaluation of the plan is positive. Details of the plan will be discussed with the U.N. envoy," he added.

He said the recent developments in Jammu and Kashmir may also be raised in talks with Kanjoo.

A major breakthrough is expected in the Afghan issue in the near future in the wake of the joint Afghan mujahideen operations in northern Afghanistan and the recent solidarity with the Afghan mujahideen declared by a large group of Afghan military and civil officials.

Kanjoo Views Purpose of Visit

LD3003145292 Tehran IRIB Television Second
Program Network in English 1349 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] The Pakistani minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo, arrived in Tehran this morning and was welcomed by Foreign Minister Mr. Velayati. Upon arrival, Mr. Kanjoo explained the purpose of his visit to Tehran.

[Begin Kanjoo recording] My visit to this brotherly country of Iran is part of the exercise which both the countries enjoy the best of relations with each other, and we cherish this lovely brotherly relation. It is on a bilateral visit and I'll be taking into confidence His Excellency Dr. Velayati, the very distinguished foreign minister of Iran—the happenings in our part of the world and, as you just mentioned, about the Afghan issue as well, we will be talking about. And that is the purpose of my visit here. [end recording]

[Announcer] On the question of the Jammu and Kashmir issue, Mr. Kanjoo said.

[Begin Kanjoo recording] We have heard the latest position today—30 March, one of the parties had announced to cross the line of control. In fact this had happened back on the 11 February as well. The Government of Pakistan is committed to peaceful settlement of this issue, in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions, and we in fact try, and we succeeded in stopping people to cross the line of control. It is again there—I hope it is being controlled today. God willing it will be. But the question rises: Until what time is the Government of Pakistan going to do all this? It is a very painful duty on our part. In fact we call through you the attention of the entire world, that the resolution which remains unimplemented—of the UN—should be implemented, and the people of Kashmir, through a plebiscite, should be given a right which was pledged to them through that resolution. They should be given a right to chose for themselves either they want to be part of Pakistan or India. [end recording]

Kanjoo, Velayati Discuss Ties

LD3003173792 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Excerpt] Mr. Mohammad Siddique Kanjoo, Pakistan's minister of state for foreign affairs, who is in Tehran, conferred with Foreign Minister Velayati this afternoon.

At this meeting, bilateral relations, important regional and international issues, and the Afghanistan question were discussed and reviewed.

Mr. Kanjoo pointed to the profound and fraternal relations between the two countries and noted that absolutely favorable grounds existed for greater expansion of mutual relations. He emphasized the extension of communications networks between the two countries in the fields of railways and road transport.

Mr. Velayati said that it was fortunate that relations between the two countries were deep and brotherly. He considered that the convening of the Iran-Pakistan Joint Commission in Islamabad in the near future was an important step in expanding cooperation.

The foreign minister also emphasized that cases which were reiterated in the meeting between Nawaz Sharif, prime minister of Pakistan, and President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, to expand bilateral cooperation, should be followed up. [passage omitted]

Trilateral Talks Open

LD3003155692 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] The trilateral session, including Iran, Pakistan, and the UN secretary general's special envoy for Afghan affairs, opened in Tehran this afternoon. During the session, Mr. Kanjoo, Pakistani minister of state for foreign affairs; Mr. Velayati, Iranian foreign minister; and Mr. Sevan, the UN secretary general's special envoy for Afghan Affairs, discussed ways to resolve the Afghan issue.

The session is still in progress at the Foreign Ministry building. This trilateral session has made Tehran the center for exchanging views on resolving the Afghan issue.

'Positive Points' Seen in UN Plan

NC3103074592 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 31 Mar 92

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan, and the United Nations are continuing talks seeking a solution to the Afghanistan issue. According to IRNA, at yesterday's session, our foreign minister held talks with Mohammad Siddique Kanjoo, the Pakistani minister of state for foreign affairs, and Benon Sevan, the special UN emissary.

Dr. Velayati stressed the need to accelerate progress on the Afghanistan issue, to continue discussions and exchange views as necessary for attaining a just and fair political solution. Our foreign minister added: Iran sees positive points in the UN secretary general's five-point plan, and believes that the continued efforts by the UN secretary general will be effective toward a final solution to the Afghanistan issue.

At the conclusion of yesterday's session, the participants answered questions from correspondents. Our foreign minister expressed satisfaction with the course of the talks and said: We believe that the Afghanistan issue should be resolved by the people of that country. The UN emissary is scheduled to meet the Afghanistan mujahedin and the Kabul government, as well as Afghanistan's neighbors, so that the Afghan people can obtain positive and suitable results.

Sevan thanked Iran and Pakistan for their cooperation and said: I will be pleased if we can obtain better results after talks with the mujahedin.

Kanjoo explained the direction of the talks and said: It has been decided that the United Nations will continue its efforts with the help of Iran and Pakistan.

Butrus Ghali 'Lauded'

LD3103083492 Tehran IRNA in English 0625 GMT 31 Mar 92

[Text] Tehran, March 31, IRNA—Iran, Pakistan and the U.N. special envoy on Afghanistan, in a tripartite meeting here Monday night [30 March] discussed ways to remove problems on the way of settling the Afghanistan issue.

Present in the meeting were Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the visiting Pakistani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mohammad Siddique Kanjoo and the special envoy of the U.N. secretary general for Afghanistan Benon Sevan.

Speaking in the session Velayati said Iran has so far employed all its efforts to settle the Afghan issue and will continue to do so until the final solution to the problem is found. Iran favours coming to power of an independent, non-aligned and Islamic government in Afghanistan, he said. Velayati lauded efforts of U.N. Secretary General Butrus Ghali and his special envoy in solving the Afghan crisis. Calling for a speedy solution to the problem, he said the U.N. five-point plan contains positive points. He added that continued efforts of Butrus Ghali will be effective in settling the issue. Velayati stressed that coordination among officials of Iran, Pakistan and the Afghan people will help solve the problem and provide grounds for greater cooperation among the three countries at regional and international levels once the problem is over.

Kanjoo arrived here Monday morning to discuss bilateral relations and the Afghan issue. Sevan who arrived in

Tehran last Saturday in a meeting with Velayati on Sunday discussed ways of solving the Afghan crisis.

Kanjoo Departs

LD3103104692 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 31 Mar 92*

[Text] Mohammad Siddique Kanjoo, Pakistani minister of state for foreign affairs, left Tehran at noon today. Mr. Kanjoo, who came to Tehran to exchange views with Iranian officials on the Afghan issue and other regional issues, termed the outcome of his talks positive, and thanked Iran for its stance on regional issues. He also expressed the hope that the Afghan issue will be resolved as soon as possible, and that a government based on the people's vote will be established in that country.

Commentary Views Afghan Mediation

LD2903121492 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1052 GMT 29 Mar 92*

[Station commentary]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Following the announcement from Najibollah, the ruler of Afghanistan, on his readiness to hand over power to an interim government, the time has come for the secretary general's special envoy for Afghan affairs to undertake resolute steps in order to establish peace in that country. This has led to intensive negotiations in Kabul, Islamabad, and Tehran on a solution to the Afghan problem.

The comprehensive measures for the establishment of peace in Afghanistan require the cooperation of all the factions involved in Afghanistan. Although some of the Afghan groups have not agreed to the peace plan, world and regional conditions have created the grounds for a solution to the Afghan problem through political means. This requires the cooperation of all the groups engaged in jihad so that, with unity, a government preferable to them takes power.

The 13-year civil war in Afghanistan led to the expulsion of alien forces, after the unending and brave jihad of the Muslim people of that country. The civil war has not resulted in complete victory for any side, however. Scattered clashes during the past two years have proved indecisive.

Although the five-point UN peace plan has certain shortcomings, it has created the atmosphere for a political solution to the Afghan problem. Through unity at the negotiating table, the mujahedin can achieve their political wish: An Islamic, independent, and nonaligned government.

Government Denies Deporting Afghan Youth

LD2903190792 *Tehran IRNA in English 1705 GMT 29 Mar 92*

[Text] Islamabad, March 29, IRNA—The Iranian Embassy here Sunday denied a report by an Afghan youth to the effect that Iran had recently arrested 120 young Afghans in Iran and surrendered them to the Government in Afghanistan.

The ALBINAN NEWS AGENCY, which is an affiliate of the Islamic coalition of Afghanistan, Saturday quoted an Afghan by the name of Mohammad Alem of Badakhshan Province of Afghanistan as saying that the Iranian Government had arrested him and another 119 Afghans in Mashhad of Iran and surrendered them to the regime of Kabul.

Mohammad Alem claimed that the Revolutionary Guards of Iran had arrested them apparently on charges of not having work permits.

The Afghan youth said to the news agency that he had then killed three government soldiers in Afghanistan and subsequently fled to Pakistan.

Yazdi Says Red Cross Office May Remain Open

LD3003155892 *Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 30 Mar 92*

[Text] The International Red Cross office in Iran will continue with its work, provided it strengthens its position and legal status, avoids the adoption of stances which are contrary to the principle of impartiality, and refrains from offenses which are contrary to international principles and regulations.

Mr. Yazdi, head of the judicial branch, spoke at a meeting of judicial officials today. He said that in connection with the statement issued by the Red Cross in Geneva—in which it claimed that by closing the Red Cross Office, Iran took an action incompatible with the principles of the Geneva convention—the closure of the Red Cross Office is nothing but a claim. If our officials legally confronted individuals who were sent to our country under the designation of the International Red Cross's select delegation—but by taking actions which were contrary to international regulations, they committed certain offenses—this does not mean the closure of the Red Cross office in Iran.

Further on Remarks

LD3003165492 *Tehran IRNA in English 1614 GMT 30 Mar 92*

[Text] Tehran, March 30, IRNA—Head of the Judiciary Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi on Monday strongly criticized the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) for its recent statement in which it accused Iran of violating the Geneva conventions by closing down the ICRC office in Tehran.

"The closure of the ICRC office is just a claim," Yazdi said "If our authorities have taken legal action against individuals sent to Iran under the title of ICRC team but who have committed offences by violating international norms, this does not mean the closure of the ICRC office in Iran."

"As a matter of fact, the office can continue to operate (in Iran) if it consolidates its legal base and refrains from taking positions that are in contrast with its principle of neutrality and from offences violating international regulations," he said.

Ayatollah Yazdi made the remarks in a meeting with judicial officials here.

Envoy on U.S. 'Interference' in South Asia

*LD2503140992 Tehran IRNA in English 1254 GMT
25 Mar 92*

[Text] New Delhi, March 25, IRNA—The Islamic Republic of Iran, Wednesday [25 March], expressed serious concern over the continuing interference by the United States of America in South Asia, and said it did not augur well for the countries of the region.

Talking to newsmen here, the Iranian ambassador to India, Ebrahim Rahimpur, said that governments of regional countries should be "very vigilant" against U.S. attempts to establish its hegemony.

The envoy maintained that Washington has a new scheme for South Asia in the wake of the disintegration of the Soviet Union, and playing off one nation against another is an intrinsic part of it.

Stating that America's vacillation with regard to various issues confronting Indo-Pakistan relations, like Kashmir, is enough evidence of its manipulative nature, the ambassador called upon nations of the region to solve bilateral disputes by themselves and thereby pre-empt the U.S. from getting a foothold here.

Rahimpur affirmed that Iran was in favour of the Afghan and other such issues to be solved by countries of the region through dialogue and discussion.

He pointed out that Iran had, over the past few days, not only taken an initiative in bringing about a truce between Armenia and Azerbaijan, but had also sought to take initiatives on the question of Muslims in countries as far apart as Lebanon and Burma.

Reiterating that the Islamic Republic of Iran was committed to defend the interests of Muslims the world over, Rahimpur said that the mischievous designs of the imperialist-Zionist combine had to be thwarted by joint efforts of all nations.

He added that Iran, as part of its policy of supporting the oppressed Palestinians against the terrorist state of Israel, observes Qods [Jerusalem] Day every year in the fasting month of Ramadan.

This year the International Qods Day is to be celebrated on March 27.

Swiss National Arrested for 'Illegal Contacts'

*LD3003154992 Tehran IRNA in English 1430 GMT
30 Mar 92*

[Text] Tehran, March 30, IRNA—A Swiss national and two Iranians were arrested here on March 18 on charges of illegal contacts with some personnel of the Iranian Armed Forces, announced the office of the Tehran military prosecutor today.

It named the Swiss as Hans Bohler and identified the two Iranian detainees as a manager and a clerk of a trading firm.

Further investigations are under way, the office added.

Nepal & Bhutan

French Foreign Minister Meets With Officials

*BK3003170292 Hong Kong AFP in English 1205 GMT
30 Mar 92*

[Text] Kathmandu, March 30 (AFP)—The visiting Assistant French Foreign Minister Alain Vivien Monday [30 March] called on Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala here Monday, officials said.

During this meeting, the two men discussed the Nepal-France economic and political relationships and also Nepal's new multi-party system of government.

The two men discussed restoring the Uma Maheswore, one of the oldest temples in Nepal, and other educational and health restoration projects at Panauti township lying 40 kilometres (25 miles) east of Kathmandu under the French Financial Assistance, the official source said.

French Ambassador Michel Galas was also present at the meeting.

Later Vivien met ruling Nepali Congress Party [NCP] President Krishna Prasad Bhattarai and the leaders of the opposition party and the Nepal Communist Party at their respective offices, the party sources said.

During these meetings, Vivien discussed the political situation, the forthcoming local council elections and the progress made in the newly re-established democratic system of government in Nepal.

Foreign Secretary Leaves for Talks on Refugees

*BK3003170092 Hong Kong AFP in English 1408 GMT
30 Mar 92*

[Text] Kathmandu, March 30 (AFP)—A top official left here for Bhutan Monday for talks on how to stem the flow of ethnic Nepalese refugees from the tiny mountain kingdom to Nepal, a Foreign Ministry source said.

Foreign Secretary Narendra Bikram Shah was carrying a letter from Nepalese Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala seeking a solution to the problem of refugees who have been fleeing Bhutan alleging persecution by authorities there, the source told AFP. Shah, Nepal's top diplomat, is to hand over the letter during a meeting with King Jigme Singye Wangchuk, the source said, adding that the foreign secretary was to spend three days in the Bhutanese capital of Thimphu.

About 25,000 refugees have fled to Nepal following Bhutan's move to impose its Buddhist Drukpa culture on ethnic Nepalese Hindus in the country, a senior Home Ministry official said. But the official said the figure could be as high as 30,000 if those refugees living outside camps were counted. "Some 200 to 500 fresh refugees are arriving in destitute and sick conditions every day," the official said.

Bhim Subba, a former top Bhutanese official now living in exile in Nepal, told AFP that almost all the ethnic Nepalese living in the south of the kingdom had been driven out through intimidation after the imposition of rules extending Drukpa culture to all residents. But a Bhutanese Government spokesman in New Delhi said many of the refugees were from India and denied that the government was using intimidation to force people to move.

In 1988, the Bhutanese Government, because of a continuous influx of Nepalese into the country, took a census of the population and announced that only people that settled there before 1958 would be considered Bhutanese. The government also announced that all Bhutanese, including those of Nepalese origin, should follow the national "code of conduct," including the wearing of national costume in public.

The teaching of Dzongkha, the national language, became stricter and public schools stopped teaching Nepalese.

Ruling Party Seeks Unity Among Leaders

BK2703194092 Hong Kong AFP in English 1247 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] Kathmandu, March 27 (AFP)—Nepal's ruling Nepali Congress (NC) has issued a call stressing the need for party unity in the runup to the country's forthcoming local elections, a party source said Friday [27 March].

After five hours of frank discussions centering on mistakes committed by the party leadership at a meeting held Thursday, the party unanimously adopted a proposal to work unitedly towards winning the elections, the source said.

The delegates also expressed concern over the differences among the NC's top three leaders—Ganesh Man Singh, Prime Minister Koirala, and Party President K.P.

Bhattarai—which Singh countered by saying "differences among leaders are a natural phenomenon in a democratic system," the source said.

The meeting was attended by Singh, Koirala, MPs from the House of Representatives and the National Assembly (Upper House) and the presidents of 75 district development councils took part in the meeting, the source said.

Altogether 4,500 NC candidates will contest the elections due to take place in the last week of May in 4,015 villages and 33 municipalities across Nepal.

Opposition parties have recently attacked the NC for its mishandling of the economy and in particular the country's high inflation rate and deteriorating law and order situation, political observers said.

Pakistan

Nawaz Sharif on Nuclear Issue, Regional Ties

PM3003085692 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 25 Mar 92 p 5

[Interview with Prime Minister Mian Mohammad Nawaz Sharif by Husayn Hasin Hajjaji in Islamabad; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Hajjaji] Statutes concerning the government, shura [consultation], and the provinces have been issued recently in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Have you followed the news about them?

[Sharif] Of course, we followed these great positive developments in the kingdom. Actually the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, under the custodian of the two holy mosques, has achieved huge progress and a distinguished high status. I am confident that the new statutes are another step in the kingdom's development. They carry further prosperity, progress, and benefit for the kingdom.

[Hajjaji] Pakistan and India agreed to keep nuclear equipment, plants, and establishments in both countries away from any aggression. What are the features of that agreement?

[Sharif] The agreement is designed to establish trust between the two countries and to eliminate any fears. As you know, in the past Pakistan tried to make South Asia a zone free from nuclear equipment [atad]. We have tried many times to reach agreement with India to achieve that, but India did not respond.

The proposal which I submitted in June 1991 to the five states—India, Pakistan, the United States, Russia, and China—to make South Asia a zone free from nuclear weapons has still not materialized because India, as I said, has not responded to it.

I hope that the Indian Government will be convinced by it so that the region's peoples can concentrate on economic and social development.

[Hajjaji] What is the impact of Indian-Israeli relations, and is the Chinese-Pakistani rapprochement a response to that?

[Sharif] First, India recently established relations with Israel. However, the announcement of these relations was nothing new, since Israel has long had an office in Bombay. There are also old ties in the trade and defense fields, and there are a large number of Israeli scientists, industrialists, and businessmen, as well as industrial and trade agreements.

India's decision in this regard is a prelude to other aspects.

Pakistan was, and still is, against the Israeli occupation of Palestine. That is our position. As for the Chinese-Pakistani rapprochement, I do not believe that it is the result of Indian-Israeli relations because there are strong and old ties between China and Pakistan.

[Hajjaji] What is Pakistan's position on the peace conference, and will you maintain relations with Israel, as has been reported?

[Sharif] Pakistan's position is clear regarding the Middle East issue and the UN resolutions on it. We support these resolutions and we demand that all the national rights of the Palestinian People be secured in Palestine. Pakistan is not prepared to establish relations with Israel until peace has been achieved and the Middle East problem has been settled.

[Hajjaji] What is the present status of Pakistani-U.S. relations?

[Sharif] Relations between the two countries are going through a critical phase because there is no understanding of the Pakistani nuclear program.

Apart from this point, both sides emphasize the depth of our relations and the continuation of cooperation in the various other fields. This was reflected by the high-level talks held between the two governments recently.

The nuclear question is still a pressing one. The consultations held during the foreign secretary's [sikritayr al-kharijiyah] visit clarified the situation well for both sides.

There is hope of finding a solution to this issue acceptable to all by reviving the friendly relations that existed between us. [passage omitted]

[Hajjaji] What would you say about Pakistan's nuclear program, and is there any change in Pakistan's nuclear policy as a result of U.S. pressures?

[Sharif] There is no change in Pakistan's nuclear policy. We remain steadfast in our aim of achieving Pakistan's progress in the nuclear field for peaceful purposes.

Our program is not an eastern weapon. If we have achieved a capability in the nuclear field, we have decided to use it in a peaceful context.

Despite these open, peaceful purposes, we cannot abandon our position.

We are willing to accept any solution that includes a settlement, without any discrimination in the region with regard to nuclear expansion and proliferation in southern Asia.

I want to add that the peaceful nature of Pakistan's nuclear program proves our desire to make South Asia a zone free from nuclear weapons.

Some years ago Pakistan presented India with some very important proposals on this point. My special proposal in June 1991 to the five states is the latest plan offered by Pakistan to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons in South Asia.

Regrettably, India has not yet responded to these proposals, nor has it responded to other proposals in the past.

This is why preventing nuclear proliferation in this region will remain an important issue in Pakistan's foreign policy.

[Hajjaji] What are the results of your talks on the Afghan issue with the UN secretary general's special envoy, who is now in the region?

[Sharif] The UN envoy's efforts to unite Afghan mujahidin groups to establish a transitional Islamic government are still achieving success. We call on all mujahidin leaders to unite and to support the UN plan and resolutions, because they embody a good solution to the Afghan issue.

[Hajjaji] What are the latest results of the talks on the Afghan mujahidin issue? What is your opinion of the question of former King Zahir Shah's return and Najibollah's participation in power?

[Sharif] The Afghanistan issue is still important to Pakistan because we still host over 3 million Afghan refugees.

Actually the matter requires an urgent political solution. This solution should be in accordance with the will and wishes of the Afghans, who have sacrificed their lives to liberate their homeland from foreign occupation.

Regarding the second part of your question, according to all the reports and information that we have received and that we possess, it has become apparent that King Zahir Shah rejects Najibollah's government and prefers its replacement with a new government recognized by the Afghan people.

[Hajjaji] Pakistan is accused by Western circles of cooperating with China in supplying Iran with strategic nuclear weapons and of assisting it. What is your opinion?

[Sharif] On several occasions Pakistan has stated frankly that it does not provide Iran with any assistance in the nuclear field.

I want to take this opportunity to reaffirm that Pakistan does not provide, nor will it provide, any kind of assistance to build a nuclear capability.

Western reports have conveyed this untrue information in the past and we have replied to it very frankly, as I said. [passage omitted]

President Bush's National Day Message Viewed

BK2803142492 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Mohammad Yamin commentary]

[Text] In his message of felicitations to President Ghulam Ishaq Khan on the occasion of Pakistan Day, U.S. President George Bush has underscored lasting friendship between Pakistan and the United States and the Pakistani and American people. He has also expressed the hope that this relationship would flourish as the two countries and the two peoples live together to meet the challenges posed by a changing world order and the recent emergence of a number of new nations, especially in Central Asia.

While it is customary for the heads of state to exchange messages of goodwill and courtesy on national days, the substance and the [word indistinct] tone and tenor of President Bush's this year's message is particularly meaningful and warm. More so, when viewed in the backdrop of the strain that the U.S.-Pakistan relations have come under during the last couple of years. It is, therefore, in order to attempt a general review of the U.S.-Pakistan relation.

It would be no overstatement that Pakistan and the United States had enjoyed cordial and friendly ties ever since the establishment of Pakistan as an independent nation. In late fifties, new dimensions were added to this relationship and a considerably long era of mutual cooperation, particularly in the military and economic spheres, began.

Barring a few ups and downs, this mutually beneficial relationship prospered with wholesome results for the political climate of the region and international peace. The basis of this friendly relationship has been as pointed out by President Bush in his message was respect for the values of liberty, democracy, and the rule of law. Also, there has been a convergence of views between the two nations on most major international issues and a mutual appreciation of each other's viewpoint.

The high point of the curves in friendly ties between Pakistan and the United States came when the Soviet Union embarked on a military adventure in Afghanistan. Ever since 1979, when the Soviet Union intervened physically in Afghanistan, Pakistan and the United States together with other like-minded nations took a principled stand on the matter and worked together to thwart the blatant aggression by a superpower against a small neighbor. Over this issue, Pakistan and the United

States continued to work together within the framework of the UN-sponsored peace formula for Afghanistan and would hopefully jointly succeed in helping to find a lasting settlement of the Afghan question. On this, there can be possibly no difference of opinion as has been stated by the U.S. president on Pakistan's national day message.

The present difficulties between the United States and Pakistan stem from Pakistan's nuclear program. Pakistan has given more than adequate proof consistently of its being firmly supportive of nuclear weapon nonproliferation and has for almost two decades sought the United Nations' assistance in the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia. Members of the world body are overwhelmingly with Pakistan on this. But its efforts have made no headway because India refuses to go along. Pakistan has also initiated a number of other constructive proposals in this regard, but to no avail because of the Indian obduracy.

The point to ponder is that Pakistan's nuclear program is not a mere bilateral issue between the United States and Pakistan. It has regional ramifications, especially as the major regional power—India—exploded a nuclear device 18 years ago and refuses to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty or subscribe to any other international safeguards and [word indistinct] which would be applicable to all the countries of the region. It also refuses to sit on the conference table along with the United States, Russia, China and Pakistan to discuss the matter. The United States is well aware of Pakistan's security concerns and the direction from which it is threatened. Mr. Bush has said that United States looks forward to close cooperation with Pakistan to promote regional stability in South Asia. Hopefully, this also includes his (?full) acceptance of Pakistan's view on the adoption of a regional approach toward nuclear issue.

Jamiyat-i-Islami Leader Criticizes U.S. Policy

BK2803090792 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 28 Mar 92 p 4

[Text] Lahore, March 27—Amir Jamiyat-i-Islami (JI), Senator Qazi Hussain Ahmad, has alleged that US is supporting the suppressive policies of Israel by supplying heaps of weapons including atomic devices to the Zionist power.

Addressing the Juma congregation at Mansura, the JI Amir viewed that the nuclear weapons piled up with Israel were sufficient to devastate the entire Middle East. On the other hand, he said the US was pressuring Iraq for destruction of its defence armament threatened Libya and Pakistan to give up its peaceful nuclear programme.

He alleged that US had also prevented China from supplying missile technology to Pakistan. He said that America was trying to pave the way for installation of a secular government in Afghanistan. He criticised the US for calling Kashmiri Mujahideen terrorists.

He vowed that Jamiyat-i-Islami would continue to oppose the US hooliganism against the Muslim world.

Indian Troops Capture Four 'Unarmed Personnel'

BK3103065292 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 31 Mar 92

[Text] A press release issued by Inter-Service Public Relations in Islamabad yesterday says that on the 13th of this month Indian troops stopped and abducted four unarmed personnel of the Pakistan armed forces while they were returning from a visit to a ranger's post of the border area in Kasur sector on the 13th of this month. The press release adds that Indians are now alleging that these personnel were on a secret mission, but Indians have themselves admitted that these Pakistanis had their identification cards with them and they were caught on the border.

The press release says that the Indian statement refutes their own allegation because the presence of the identification cards with the Pakistanis is a clear proof that they were not involved in any type of secret activities. A Pakistani military official has contacted his Indian counterpart who has confirmed that Indians have caught these Pakistanis and talks are now on for their return.

Plebiscite Only Way To Solve Kashmir Dispute

BK2803093192 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 28 Mar 92 p 6

[Text] The state of Jammu and Kashmir is disputed territory between India and Pakistan. The dispute must be resolved in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions to which both countries are solemnly pledged. Under this pledge the two countries are bound to ensure the holding of a free and fair plebiscite in the state to enable the people of Kashmir to decide their future. Any solution of the problem other than on the basis of a plebiscite would amount to a betrayal of the whole scheme of partition and the international obligation assumed by India and Pakistan. If either country goes back on that obligation it would lose its claim on the outcome of the dispute.

When Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said in a recent BBC interview that the people of Kashmir could opt for independence he was not resiling from Pakistan's firm commitment to the holding of a plebiscite in Kashmir. He was endorsing the right of self-determination available to the people of Kashmir. He later clarified that the people of Kashmir had risen in revolt against the Indian occupation forces and were engaged in a life and death struggle for the liberation of Kashmir and the most important thing for Pakistan, as for the rest of the world, was to ensure that the struggle culminated in the triumph of the people. When men and women are being gunned down in the streets of Srinagar, it is inhuman to talk about the disposition of the territory after its liberation. The only point relevant at the moment is the struggle itself and it is the duty of all people, all over the world, to

give whatever assistance they can to the freedom fighters of Kashmir so that they can throw off the accursed yoke of the armed forces of India. The people of Pakistan, both as neighbours and as a party to the dispute, have a moral obligation to give full support to their brothers and sisters in Kashmir till they liquidate their enemy who knows no scruple, recognises no principle and honours no commitment. This is not rhetoric, this is the record of the government of India since Partition. Ask any neighbour of India, big or small, and you will get the same answer. The Indians have never resolved any dispute involving territory in a fair and peaceful manner. China, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, name any country in the neighbourhood of India and you will find a trail of pledges violated and promises betrayed.

If it is not possible for Pakistan to give material aid to the freedom fighters in Kashmir we can at least maintain a posture of disgust and disapproval of Indian brutalities in Kashmir. All this hugging and hobnobbing that goes on at the official level is most painful. Any citizen of the world who has the slightest regard for human rights would refuse to have anything to do with the officials of a government engaged in persistent and shameless violation of all norms of civilised behaviour.

We know of a small band of anti-apartheid activists in London, blacks and whites, who kept up a twenty four hour vigil outside the South African embassy building for over fourteen years demanding the end of apartheid. The vigil ended only after Nelson Mandela's release. Here in Pakistan we lose no opportunity of socialising with Indian officials. Much wining and dining goes on at Indian diplomatic parties in Islamabad while children are being butchered and women raped and dragged through the streets of Srinagar. And it is not that we don't know about these atrocities. Our newspapers report all the happenings on their front pages and our official bulletines on radio and television always begin with a grim recital of Indian killings in Kashmir. Yet when it comes to showing any disapproval of India's conduct we have not the slightest hesitation in going to functions organised by Indian diplomats. So long as we have diplomatic relations with that country it is in order for a designated official to put in an appearance at an official reception given by the High Commissioner but it is not necessary for the whole cabinet to queue up outside the high commissioner's residence, with a long row of jolly civil servants bringing up the rear. Imagine the effect that full blown pictures of Pakistan officials locked in a hearty "japha" (necking Punjabi style) with their Indian counterparts has on the people of Kashmir. Go on watching the Indian movies, if you must, go on shopping sprees to India as often as you like, but for God's sake spare the people of Kashmir echoes of your loud laughter and tedious jokes at these diplomatic receptions.

Khan on Kashmir; Arrested Leaders Being Released

*BK3103065692 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network
in Urdu 0200 GMT 31 Mar 92*

[Text] Azad Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister Sardar Mohammad Abdul Qayyum Khan has said that Indian authorities' brutalities in occupied Kashmir are hindering the peaceful resolution of the Kashmir issue. Addressing a news conference in Muzaffarabad last night, he said he firmly believes in a political settlement of the dispute. He said there is a qualitative difference between the situation pertaining to political freedom in Azad Kashmir and the occupied Kashmir. People enjoy full freedom in Azad Kashmir, while Kashmiris living in the occupied Kashmir are engaged in a hard struggle to free themselves from the Indian slavery. He added that that is why the call given by Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front to violate the Line of Control was not heeded in any part of Azad Kashmir. The Azad Kashmir prime minister said he thinks the Line of Control is not inviolable, but he was only interested in saving the people from Indian shelling.

Sardar Mohammad Abdul Qayyum Khan said 130 persons were arrested in Azad Kashmir yesterday and all of them, except one or two who are involved in various cases, will be released at an appropriate time. He announced the release of three opposition leaders who were taken into custody on 29 March.

'No Public Response' to Crossing Control Line

*BK3003145292 Islamabad PTV Television Network
in English 1415 GMT 30 Mar 92*

[Text] According to an official press note issued by the Government of Azad Kashmir, the call made by Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front [JKLF] to cross the Control Line today received no public response. According to the press note, there has been no unpleasant incident throughout Azad Kashmir and situation remained peaceful. A few persons held public meetings and processions at Kotli, Mirpur, and Muzaffarabad and later dispersed peacefully. In village Gujer Kandi, a JKLF leader, Raja Muzaffar Khan, addressed a public meeting attended by 300 people. This gathering later on also dispersed peacefully.

The press note further states those persons who had been arrested during the last few days as a precautionary measure are being released gradually.

Ministers Assure Support for Awami National Party

*BK2803154092 Islamabad PTV Television Network
in English 1415 GMT 28 Mar 92*

[Text] The interior minister, Chaudhary Shujat Hussain; federal minister for information and broadcasting, Mr. Abdul Sattar Lalika; and the special adviser to the prime minister and minister for petroleum and natural resources, Chaudhary Nissar Ali Khan; met the ANP [Awami National Party] leader, Khan Abdul Wali Khan,

and the party central [committee] president, Mr. Ajmal Khattak, in Wali Bagh near Charsadda today. The federal ministers on behalf of the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, expressed concern and sorrow over the uncalled for comments made by speakers at the 23d March function against ANP leaders. The federal ministers assured on behalf of the prime minister that such incidents will not be allowed to happen in future.

The federal ministers said IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad] and the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, consider the ANP as a strong partner and alliance with ANP will continue. Later, talking to newsmen, the special adviser to the prime minister, Chaudhary Nissar Ali Khan, said the prime minister will soon meet ANP leaders for talks on certain issues. He described the meeting with the ANP leaders as most cordial and friendly. The provincial chief of ANP, Begum Nasim Wali Khan; minister of state for communications, Mr. Azam Khan Hoti; and provincial minister, Mr. Sharif Toofan; were also present during the meeting.

Minister Reports Tension With ANP Ended

*BK2903100092 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network
in Urdu 0200 GMT 29 Mar 92*

[Text] Federal Minister for Information Abdul Sattar Lalika has described his meeting with the Awami National Party [ANP] leadership at Wali Bagh in Peshawar as very successful and said that the so-called tension has completely ended. Talking to newsmen on his return to Islamabad from Peshawar last evening, he said that the ANP leaders warmly welcomed the prime minister's message and their ministers will continue to cooperate with the prime minister. When asked about the boycott of offices by the ANP ministers, Abdul Sattar Lalika said that the matter has been settled.

Government Expects \$2.9 Billion in Aid for 92-93

*BK2803040792 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English
27 Mar 92 p 1*

[Text] Islamabad March 26: Pakistan expects total official aid commitments to the tune of 2925 million dollars from all sources during the financial year 1992-93 which would be the second year of the new structural adjustment programme being implemented as per understanding with the World Bank and IMF in December 1991, official sources told THE MUSLIM here on Thursday.

The sources said that about 2365 million dollars are expected from the Aid to Pakistan consortium members, 410 million dollars from nonconsortium sources and 150 million dollars for Afghan Refugees assistance.

Out of 2365 million dollars aid expected from Aid to Pakistan Consortium, 1953 million dollars would be in project aid, 2 million dollars in food and 410 million dollars in commodity and programme type assistance.

Pakistan, the sources said, during the on-going year received a commitment of 2482 million dollars from the Consortium including 2113 million dollars in project aid, 2 million dollars in food and 367 million dollars in non-project aid. The actual disbursements during the current financial year have, however, been very low and Pakistan would be able to utilise only 1649 million dollars.

While giving justification for the aid pledge, Pakistan is to tell the Consortium that it has already started undertaking policy changes on several fronts on the instructions of the World Bank and IMF. The success of the new Structural Adjustment Programme would depend on the cooperation and financial assistance of the international community.

Pakistan while pleading for its case would be telling the Consortium that the performance of its economy so far monitored during the current financial year shows that the composition of GDP growth and investment will be close to the forecast of 5.8 per cent against 5.6 per cent achieved last year, the fixed investment is estimated to be around 200 billion rupees and value added in manufacturing sector is being estimated to grow at a somewhat higher rate of 7.4 per cent as against 6.3 per cent last year.

Keeping in view the estimated production of 10.8 million bales of cotton, the agriculture sector is also likely to attain the growth rate of 1.2 per cent very close to the target, sources said.

The growth rate in manufacturing sector is expected to improve to 7 per cent as compared to the last three years average of 4.2 per cent per annum.

The paper to be submitted before the Consortium meeting shows that during the first six months of 1991-92, the extraction of oil and gas and generation of electricity depicted a mixed trend. While the production of gas increased by 5.3 per cent, the extraction of 10.97 million US barrel oil was 9 per cent lower than 12.06 million US barrels extracted during the same period last year. The installed electricity generation capacity increased by 10.4 per cent from 8074 MW to 8913 MW during the same period.

During the year, the total investment inexpected to reach Rs 218 billion, 15.6 per cent higher than previous year's level. This comprised investment of Rs 94 billion in the public sector, Rs 106 billion in the private sector and Rs 18.7 billion as changes in stocks.

Sharif in Jeddah To Perform Minor Pilgrimage

BK2903133692 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1300 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, arrived in Jeddah this afternoon to perform

umrah [minor pilgrimage]. He is accompanied by several cabinet members as well as members of parliament. The governor of Mecca Mukarramah, Prince Sa'ud Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, Pakistan's ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Mr. Waliullah, and senior officials received the prime minister. Later, he left for Mecca to perform umrah.

General Mushtaq Named Military Intelligence Chief

BK2803040192 Karachi DAWN in English 27 Mar 92 p 1

[Text] Islamabad, March 26: The Director General of Military Intelligence Lt. General Javed Ashraf has been replaced by General Mohammad Mushtaq, who was Director of Military Operations in the GHQ.

The outgoing DG of MI has been promoted as Lt General and posted as Master General of Ordnance.

Sources said the new Corps Commander of Sindh, Lt General Nasir Akhtar would take over from Lt General Arif Bangash after 'Id.

Paper Comments on Indigenous Arms Production

BK2803043392 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 27 Mar 92 p 6

[Editorial: "Defence Self-Reliance"]

[Text] Presiding over a high level meeting, Federal Minister for Defence Syed Ghaus Ali Shah said that we should devote our maximum efforts in areas where manufacture rather than mere assembly of defence components is undertaken. In view of the limited availability of funds in the public sector, the Defence Minister added, there is need to induct the private sector in defence production with its capital and expertise. For this purpose, he said, greater encouragement should be provided to private entrepreneurs in an organised manner through a set of incentives. Syed Ghaus Ali Shah further said that we should lay maximum stress on acquisition of modern technology.

The meeting on defence was convened under the directive of the Prime Minister in which he had reiterated his government's policy on self-reliance. As the Federal Minister for Defence Production said on the occasion, it is impossible to achieve the depth necessary to maximise indigenisation of defence production without the involvement of the private sector. It is no gainsaying that there are compelling reasons for us to reduce dependence on foreign sources and expertise in the field of defence production. We have to develop our own research and development potential but at the same time we should not fight shy of acquiring techniques which have already been developed. The ace weapons of today are yielding ground to new and more sophisticated weapons systems. As such we have to allocate more funds for research. All the same we need to develop the overall industrial base of the country so that the private sector plays its part in

defence production. In highly developed countries the production of armament is in the hands of private industry. With healthy competition among private entrepreneurs, the armed forces are provided their requirements at competitive rates. The establishment of hi-tech industries in the country needs to be encouraged if we are to achieve our aim of self-reliance for our defence needs. Even countries as small as Sweden, Austria and South Korea have developed highly efficient defence industries. The growth and development in defence production mainly depends on a commitment to self-reliance and indigenisation. With the firm resolve of the Government to achieve this objective there is no reason why we cannot gradually reduce our dependence on

others for the supply of military equipment and ourselves build a balanced defence for the country.

Bomb Blast in Quetta Kills Mosque Custodian

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[Text] A bomb explosion inside a mosque in the suburbs of the Pakistani city of Quetta martyred the custodian of this mosque. IRNA reported from Islamabad that the man was trying to discard the bomb in the mosque, but the bomb exploded and fatally wounded him. He died after being taken to a hospital.